

PLO seeks to cover UNRWA deficit

AMMAN (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has begun contacting Arab states in the hope of raising aid to cover the financial deficit of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees. Hani Al Hassan, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, told Reuters Friday UNRWA's financial problems could have "grave political results aimed at gradually eliminating the (Palestinian) refugee issue from the U.N. agenda." He said the PLO had set up a committee to look into UNRWA's problems and that committee members had begun contacting Arab states in the hope of covering UNRWA's deficit. UNRWA Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck said this week that the refugees body would have to reduce its help for Palestinian refugees if it did not receive funds within three months (See page 3).

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Urquhart due here Jan. 19

AMMAN (J.T.) — U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Brian Urquhart is due here on Jan. 19 on a brief visit to Jordan, according to a report published Friday in the local Arabic daily Al-Dustour. It said the Mr. Urquhart's visit to Jordan is within the U.N. official's Middle East tour during which he will meet with officials and acquaint himself with the latest developments in the region.

Cabinet names team to study JEA, JEPCO relations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cabinet has decided to set up a committee, to be headed by Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Taher Hikmat, to study the relationship between the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and the Jordanian Electric Power Company (JEPCO). The committee comprises representatives from the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the JEA and JEPCO. The government has asked JEPCO to pay JD 1.5 million which the company has collected from consumers as "rural fees" since 1972. The government asked JEPCO to pay these sums to the government treasury as the company did not spend them on rural electrification projects. The JEPCO collected one fils per one kilowatt of electricity from consumers for rural electrification purposes.

Supply Ministry study apple imports

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministry of Supply has not yet started importing apples but it is currently conducting studies and negotiating with exporters from apple producing countries, according to a spokesman for the ministry. A report published Friday in the local Arabic daily Al-Dustour said a recent decision by the cabinet has made the import of apples the responsibility of the ministry only. The spokesman added that the apples currently available in the market were imported by merchants who obtained import licences from the Ministry of Agriculture. He said the Ministry of Supply will not start importing apples until all agreements signed between merchants and exporters are implemented.

Ahmad Qatanani named ministry official

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cabinet has decided to appoint Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, a staff member of the University of Jordan, as under-secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs.

5 Israeli soldiers wounded near Sidon

TEL AVIV (R) — Five Israeli soldiers were wounded in southern Lebanon Thursday by a roadside bomb explosion, a military spokesman said. He said the troops were travelling in an army convoy near the village of Adloun, south of the port city of Sidon, when the charge exploded.

Mubaslat, Shaka'a elected House members to represent Nablus New MPs pledge to strengthen Jordan-W. Bank coordination

By Saleh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Mufid Mubaslat and Riyadh Shaka'a, the two newly-elected representatives at the Lower House of Parliament from the Nablus district in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, pledged Friday to exert all efforts in coordination with the Kingdom's authorities and institutions to serve their constituency and the central Arab cause of Palestine.

In separate interviews with the Jordan Times, the two members elected to the House Thursday to replace two Nablus deputies who died recently, said they will work with all their capabilities to contribute to ending the Israeli occupation of Arab territories.

"I hope God will give me the strength to present my known case to the world to end the occupation of our homeland — the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and South Lebanon," Mr. Mubaslat said.

He said "I can only be reached by achieving Arab solidarity and by uniting Arab ranks in cooperation with Islamic and friendly countries in the world."

"I do not make great promises but I will do my best within my capabilities," Mr. Mubaslat said.

Mr. Shaka'a pledged to "preserve the unity" between Jordan and the Israeli-occupied West Bank through the parliament which he described as "the higher legislative council in the Kingdom."

He said "We will be representing the link between our people and the Jordanian authorities and institutions to convey all their needs and aspirations."

Mr. Shaka'a said he nominated himself for the post of deputy at the House because "I feel I am capable of serving the country in cooperation with my colleagues in the House and the executive bodies in the Kingdom."

Mr. Shaka'a won the first vacant seat at the House after a second round of polls Thursday when he obtained 33 votes. Mr. Mubaslat won the second vacant seat after obtaining 32 of the votes of the 60-member House. There were 17 candidates running for the two posts.

Because Jordanian elections cannot be held in the West Bank, occupied by Israel during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, according to Article 88 of the constitution, new members from that area are elected by the House itself.

After the first round of polls, none of the candidates obtained the absolute majority needed to win according to Article 88 which means 31 votes out of 60. The number of attending deputies was 52.

In the first round, Mr. Shaka'a obtained 28 votes, Mr. Mubaslat 14, Saeed Ahmad Ali 13, Nabih Abweh 12, Ja'far Touqan 10, Dr.

Kayed Abdul Haq 8, Fahd Damen 6, Muhammad Dweikat 6, Dr. Faisal Kan'an 3, Wasel Fakhrdeen one, while Mohammad Qarad, Yussef Adli, Nabil Dibs, Hatem Ortani, Bader Abdullah and Saleh Zureik did not obtain any vote.

In the second round, deputies, according to the Constitution, voted for the four candidates who obtained the highest number of votes in the first round: Mr. Shaka'a, Mr. Mubaslat, Nabih Abwah and Sheikh Saeed Muhammad Saeed.

As a result of the second round of voting, Mr. Shaka'a won the first vacant seat by obtaining 33 votes while Mr. Mubaslat obtained 25 votes, Mr. Abwah 24 and Saeed Muhammad Saeed 18. Therefore another round of voting was required until one of those candidates obtained the required 31 minimum to win.

After the third round Mr. Mubaslat obtained 30 votes — one vote short for winning while Mr. Abwah obtained 21 and Mr. Saeed one vote.

It was after the fourth round of vote that Mr. Mubaslat won the second seat by obtaining 32 votes against 20 votes for Mr. Abwah.

Mr. Mubaslat, a businessman born in 1937 in Toubas in the Nablus district, worked for 20 years as a teacher at the Ministry of Education. He is married and has five children.

Born in Nablus in 1941, Mr. Shaka'a is a lawyer and a member of the Jordanian Bar Association. He also lives in Amman with his wife and three children.



Riyadh Shaka'a



Mufid Mubaslat

Rahall criticises Falasha airlift

RIYADH (Agencies) — U.S. Congressman Nick J. Rahall said in an interview published Friday he believed the American government had prior knowledge of the airlift of Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

"But that is not to say we were involved in it," Mr. Rahall, Democrat representative from West Virginia, told the Jeddah-based Arab News daily newspaper.

A leading member of the American-Arab Affairs Council, Mr. Rahall, who ended a five-day visit to Saudi Arabia Thursday and will also visit Oman and Jordan, said the airlift would further aggravate the situation in the Middle East.

He said he favoured a proposed international Middle East conference with the Soviet Union and all concerned parties taking part. Sudan and Ethiopia has denied involvement in the airlift and accused each other of complicity with Israel.

U.S. spokesmen have maintained silence over the issue other than saying that Washington was helping all victims of drought in Africa.

In Washington, a Defence Department spokesman Thursday confirmed news reports that the U.S. air force will begin ferrying emergency relief supplies for famine victims in Ethiopia to Sudan early next week.

Leading the opposition was Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, head of the right-wing Likud faction. In a newspaper interview published Friday, Mr. Shamir said Israel should maintain a "Lebanese presence" until it builds a "solid defence" for its northern frontier.

The sources said opinion in Prime Minister Shimon Peres' bipartisan cabinet cut across party lines, indicating that the Lebanon

issue was not likely to trigger a coalition crisis between the Likud and Mr. Peres' Labour parties.

Mr. Shamir has not ruled out a partial withdrawal but opposes setting a date for a total pullback to the international border.

Israel Radio reported that the withdrawal plan to be proposed by Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin would include a detailed timetable, which would remain secret.

United Nations troubleshooter Jean-Claude Aime was involved in shuttle diplomacy to rescue the Israel-Lebanon negotiations, which have failed to produce agreement on a coordinated Israeli withdrawal in South Lebanon.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar called on Israel Thursday not to abandon the talks. He also dispatched Brian Urquhart, the undersecretary-general for political affairs, to the Middle East this weekend to seek a breakthrough.

Israel expected to approve plan for phased pullout from Lebanon

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's cabinet, frustrated by a lack of progress towards a negotiated agreement, is expected to decide Sunday whether to go ahead with a phased withdrawal of the Israeli occupation troops from Lebanon.

Sources who spoke on condition they not be identified said the cabinet may approve the detailed withdrawal plan drawn up by the army and Defence Ministry. Israel Radio said most of the ministers favoured a phased pullout over a six-month period.

The Jerusalem Post quoted unnamed sources as saying the phased pullback would be in three stages and that there would be a "testing period" between each phase lasting a number of weeks.

The paper said Israel would use these interim periods to review the results of the rollbacks and to re-examine the possibility of a negotiated accord.

Frustration over deadlocked withdrawal talks with Lebanon has persuaded some doubters in the 25-man cabinet to support a unilateral pullout, said the sources.

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The official said Lebanon stood by its position that Lebanon and the U.N. — and not Israel — should decide the disputed question of where U.N. troops should be stationed in South Lebanon once Israeli forces withdraw.

4 American soldiers killed in Pershing 2 explosion

HEILBRONN, West Germany (AP) — A U.S. army Pershing 2 missile ignited during an equipment training exercise Friday in southern West Germany, killing four American soldiers, an army spokesman said.

Major Michael Griffin, spokesman of the 56th Field Artillery Brigade which operates the missiles, said two soldiers died at the site of the fire and two died en route to a hospital.

He indicated that other soldiers may have been injured in the incident at a missile parts storage area near Heilbronn at 1400 today.

The spokesman reported the deaths of two more soldiers three hours after the incident in a telephone interview with the Associated Press.

Maj. Griffin said the missile's solid fuel propellant ignited and burned but there was no explosion.

He was unable to give the causes of death — whether by burns or asphyxiation.

"The missile was not armed. There are no (nuclear) warheads in the area," the spokesman said.

Maj. Griffin had no details about what procedures were involved in the equipment training conducted at the site.

The West German government press office in Bonn declined comment on incident.

The article said a major problem for Israel would be the need to phase out, in a relatively short time, export and production subsidies given to some of its products in order to gain an advantage in export markets.

In response to a question, Mr. Romberg said the Egyptian government has made "various requests for increases" in the level of economic and military assistance it receives from the United States, but he provided no specific details.

One press report said Egypt is seeking a \$1,000-million increase in U.S. aid.



Members of the Lower House of Parliament vote Thursday to elect deputies for two vacant seats representing the Nablus region (Photo by Youssef Al-Arian)

Jordan has called for urgent Arab talks on summit — Masri

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri said here Thursday that Jordan has called for an extraordinary meeting of Arab foreign ministers to discuss the possible convening of a long-delayed Arab summit conference to tackle pressing Arab issues.

In a statement he gave to Jordan Television, Mr. Masri said Jordan's request for a ministerial meeting was made to Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi a week ago. Saudi Arabia was due to have hosted the summit in November last year but the top-level meeting has been postponed several times because of

inter-Arab differences.

Well-informed sources told the Jordan Times last week in Amman that Saudi Arabia has expressed reservations over hosting an Arab summit without full preparations to ensure its success. They said that Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are exerting diplomatic efforts to convene the summit at the Arab League headquarters in Tunis.

For the same purpose, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat toured 12 Arab countries last month to press for a summit that could give the green light for a Jordanian-Palestinian joint approach towards a Middle East peaceful settlement.

The last summit in Morocco in September 1982 produced an

Arab Middle East peace plan which implicitly recognised Israel's right to exist and called for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan also launched a peace plan in September 1982 calling for Palestinian self-rule in the two areas in association with Jordan. Both plans were rejected by Israel.

Speaking at a press conference he held here Wednesday, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Joseph Sisco said the U.S. will continue to be a third party in any future Middle East peace settlement and that the Reagan plan remained the best basis for such a settlement in the area.

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Arar promises to reveal results of Qawasmeh murder investigation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Suleiman Arar said in a statement published here Friday that investigations into the assassination of Fakhri Qawasmeh, member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee, are continuing and the government will announce the results of the investigations as soon as they are completed.

In an interview with the Arabic daily Sawt Al Shaab, Mr. Arar said that the assassination of Mr. Qawasmeh, who was shot dead on Dec. 29 in Amman, prompted the government to take extra security precautions to protect all citizens living in Jordan.

"Jordan is keen on maintaining good relations with all Arab countries and they are so except with Libya and Syria," the minister said.

He said that there recently appeared some signs of improvement in relations with Syria but the complication of relations between Damascus and the PLO and the "desire of the Syrian regime to impose its domination over all of Greater Syria (Bilad Al Shamm)" caused this regime to harden its hostile attitude towards Jordan.

"There used to be no differences between Amman and Damascus except the differences in view about the Gulf war, but the Syrians have lately deepened these differences by taking a hardened attitude towards Iraq and in support of Iran," the minister added.

He said Jordanian-Syrian relations were further strained following the convening of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Amman. The PNC session "caused the regime in Damascus to go mad because it had planned to destroy the PLO or at least drive it out of Syria, Lebanon and the whole of Asia and Africa," Mr.

Arar said. "The Palestine problem is the problem of Jordan, which cannot shirk its responsibilities towards the Palestinians and their legitimate and sole representative, the PLO, and will continue to do so regardless of Syria's attitude," the minister said.

Turning to Jordan's relations with Libya, Mr. Arar said they have been strained following the burning of the Jordanian embassy in Tripoli. "Libya is to blame for the bad relations which it also maintains with other Arab states," the minister added.

Commenting on Jordan's search for oil, Mr. Arar said that the government will pursue a programme in this respect, and has contracted two firms to carry out drilling operations, in addition to the present company undertaking the current drilling.

Referring to the Royal Commission for developing the civil service system in Jordan, the minister said that the commission members hold weekly meetings under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat. He said the commission has set up sub-committees which will work out job descriptions and other details pertaining to the work of civil servants.

Mr. Arar said that Jordan "shoulders an enormous task of defending not only its territory but the Arab Nation as well, and therefore, it will remain committed to providing its armed forces with modern weapons."

Failure by Arab countries to honour their financial commitments to Jordan adversely affects Jordan's armament programmes, the minister said and appealed to Arab countries to fulfil their commitments to enable Jordan to shoulder its responsibilities.



Minister of Youth Hani Al Khasawneh presides NCITY meeting Thursday at the Sports City Stadium (Petra photo)

Youth committee draws plan for International Year of Youth

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Youth Hani Al Khasawneh said Thursday that the youth in Jordan has the responsibility of informing and educating all sectors of the society. He also said that citizens must learn to rely only on their own capabilities and that they must get used to live a pattern of life which is consistent with our national resources.

Presiding a meeting held by the National Committee for the International Year of Youth (NCITY) for discussions on drawing a schedule comprising the youth activities in Jordan as part of a preparation of celebrating the International Year of Youth, with the logo: "development, participation and peace", Mr. Al Khasawneh pointed out that the activities of the committee must be aimed at a certain field like sports, recreation and culture in order to achieve solid results.

He then called on youngmen, youth centres and sport clubs to take part in forestation projects making the 'Arbor Day' which will take place on January 15.

Mr. Al Khasawneh also emphasised the necessity of dealing with problems facing the youth in Jordan and called for an open dialogue with them to discuss their problems and to meet with their demands, especially when youth represent two thirds of the Jordanian population.

Members of the NCITY which was formed to conduct the youth activities in Jordan during the International Year of Youth, Director of Al Hussein Sport City Issam Arida, Director of the Youth Welfare Organisation Mohammad Jamil Abu Al Ta'ib, head of the department of journalism at Yarmouk University, Mazen Al Armouti, Jordan TV sports reporter Mohammad Jamil Abdul Khader, sports journalists Nathani Al Sa'id, Mohammad Al

Shunati, Muhammad Sa'ad Al Shanti, a sport editor and from the social welfare societies Khawla Khare and Hala Al Horani reviewed the schedule and means of accurate implementation of the youth activities in order to achieve prompt results.

The schedule comprised the issuance of a monthly — Youth Review — at the Yarmouk University, broadcasting TV seminars about the role and achievements of youth every month, cine and TV documentaries on Jordanian students abroad, forestation projects in Amman and the governorates, launching art and cultural competitions among young intellectuals, holding debates and seminars and lectures by Jordanian senior officials who deal with the youth issues, musical and cultural activities under the supervision of the musical institute at the University of Jordan, setting up a dialogue between the young and old and holding popular games festivals on August.

Jordan, Egypt sign memoranda for shipping line, transport cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt have signed memoranda of understanding regarding operating a maritime line between Aqaba in Jordan and Nuweiba on the Sinai coast to be conducted by Egyptian and Jordanian shipping companies. The memoranda were signed in Cairo during a visit to Egypt by Transport Minister Farhi Obaid.

According to Mr. Obaid, who returned to Amman on Wednesday night, the two countries will, according to the new accord, facilitate procedures for passengers, goods and agricultural and industrial products which are exchanged between the two sides. This will be done by reducing cus-

tom and other charges imposed on such items, he added. The two countries will also undertake to launch technical cooperation in training personnel employed in railways and ports, the minister said.

Ferry service

During the visit, Mr. Obaid said that he discussed with Egyptian Minister of Transport and Communications Suleiman Mitwally linking Jordan and the Arab Orient with Egypt and the north African regions through ferries to transport passengers, pilgrims, and tourists both ways. This ferry boat

service, which has been disrupted since 1948, will be revived in April, the minister said. The service, he said, will contribute to Arab economic integration and serve Arab interests.

Mr. Obaid said that the two sides discussed the establishment of joint companies in land transport and other fields and an Egyptian delegation, led by the transport minister, will visit Jordan in March to follow talks on these projects.

Mr. Obaid, who was accompanied by a delegation from his ministry, said that he conveyed to Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, a verbal message from Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat.

Rydbeck calls for more aid

UNRWA threatens further cut in refugee services

By Olga Mikhael
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Despite heavy protests by some government officials, camp representatives and Palestinian refugees against a decision by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) to drastically reduce UNRWA services in the Middle East, the agency's officials are still threatening to take more "drastic measures" if donor governments do not increase their aid in cash in order to maintain UNRWA services at their current levels.

"I am convinced that if governments are not prepared to come to our rescue, we'll have to consider drastic measures," said UNRWA Commissioner General Olof Rydbeck in Vienna Friday.

The cuts already made in Vienna were to show that we are prepared to do our best," he added. In order to cover a deficit of \$67 million in UNRWA's 1985 budget, 31 jobs at the agency's Vienna headquarters and seven jobs at its Amman office were cut, in addition to reduction in the U.N. body's services in various fields.

"The 38 abolished posts in Vienna and Amman and the severe cut in services are a clear indication of the unjust actions practised by this agency against the Palestinian people as a whole," UNRWA employees at Amman headquarters told the Jordan Times Friday.

They added that UNRWA is supposed to be a work agency for the Palestinian refugees, but "as we can see now, the agency is terminating the jobs of Palestinians and at the same time is employing many non-Palestinians, as is the case at the Vienna headquarters where so many Americans, Austrians and others are benefiting from this agency."

The UNRWA employees in Amman pointed out that most of the Palestinians whose jobs were terminated are those holding laissez passer issued from Lebanon and are residing in either Vienna or Amman as expatriates holding special residence permit.

"Those of us whose jobs were terminated have been asked by UNRWA to prepare themselves to go back to Lebanon," the UNRWA employees said.

"Due to the current situation in Lebanon and since most of us are holding special document for Palestinian refugees we think that it is not only difficult for some of us to go back to Lebanon but it is also impossible to live in Lebanon where conditions for Palestinians are very difficult," they added.

"We hope that UNRWA would consider this as a very important issue and try to help these employees in getting residence permit in Austria or Jordan as the case may be until things are clearer in Lebanon," they said.

On Wednesday representatives of Palestinian refugees in Jordan presented two petitions, each signed by 150 people, denouncing any procedure that the agency would take to cut any part of its services, which are now at its minimum.

According to UNRWA reports from Vienna, the agency needs \$232 million in 1985 to carry on at its present level. Of the required amount, only \$165 million have been pledged by donor countries and organisations. To cover this deficit UNRWA did not only terminate 38 posts, but is also reducing services by terminating the jobs of 66 UNRWA teachers, increasing the number of students in one class to 50, adding to present responsibilities of the teachers without increasing their salaries, decreasing the number of edu-

cational supervisors at UNRWA schools, freezing any increase in the teacher's salaries as of Jan. 1, 1985, and merge some of the UNRWA schools in one big complex and appoint one director for them etc.

Moreover, UNRWA decided to cancel the Institute of Education, which is considered, according to UNRWA officials, one of the most efficient institutes in the area and which contributes to the good educational levels of the UNRWA schools.

UNRWA began operations in 1950, after the establishment of Israel in 1948, to help Palestinian refugees. It provides relief, education, health services and work for nearly two million Palestinian refugees in the Middle East.

According to UNRWA reports from Vienna, governments helped in contributing to UNRWA services by over \$2 billion over the years.

"Inflation and a surge in the value of the dollar in recent years have put enormous pressures on the agency budget, 70 per cent of which represents staff costs," Mr. Rydbeck said in Vienna Friday.

According to a report by UNRWA, the UNRWA headquarters at Vienna is costing the agency around \$500,000 every year as the cost of annual holidays for the employees there. \$3 million in differences between staff salaries in Vienna and Amman, and \$2 million in travel allowances between the headquarters in Vienna and regional offices in Amman, Syria, Lebanon, the occupied West Bank and Gaza expenses.

Reduction in services are nothing but steps towards liquidating the UNRWA's services for all Palestinian refugees and a total end of the services is expected to be very soon," according to UNRWA employees.

"Governments must move quickly to rescue the Palestinian refugees wherever they are, especially that around 6,500 Palestinian people are working with UNRWA in Jordan," they concluded.

Abdul Jaber, unions discuss work opportunities

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives of 15 labour unions in Jordan held a meeting Thursday with Labour Minister Tayseer Abdul Jaber to discuss issues pertaining to labourers, labour unions and provisions of the new labour law.

The representatives, who included Mr. Abdul Halim Khaddam, chairman of the central council of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions and the federation's secretary general Mr. Samir Qarden, stressed the unions

desire to cooperate with the government to achieve the demands and the aspirations of the Jordanian labourers and to serve the country's national interests.

The minister, for his part, expressed the government's keenness on promoting the labour movement in Jordan which, he said, is considered as a basic factor for the development of the country. Dr. Abdul Jaber said that employment opportunities are excellent in Jordan, despite the economic recession and in com-

parison with other countries. He said that the Labour Ministry is concerned about creating job opportunities for labourers and for promoting the work of labour unions. He said that the Jordanian government appreciates the work of these unions and their efforts to promote Jordan's economy.

The Labour Ministry will remain open to suggestions from the labour unions and will continue to cooperate and consult with these unions in the best national interest, the minister said.

Mu'ta civil-military university focuses on discipline

By Simonetta Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

KARAK — In mid-December, 330 first year students moved to the Mu'ta University's permanent site, 10 kilometres south of Karak, after completing a six week basic military training course at the recruiting centre.

They are presently undergoing another eight-week training course with intensive English courses, English being the medium of instruction of most academic departments, and other general education programmes to enable them to acquire the basis for their full studies which will commence at the beginning of February.

As a civil-military university, Mu'ta requires all students to be subject to military discipline. They receive military training and study military science in a four-year programme which will enable them to qualify as second lieutenants in the armed forces or police. At the same time, the university offers five different specialisations: engineering, natural sciences, law, management and human sciences, with a programme comparable to any other university.

"This system," Dr. Ali Mahafza, president of Mu'ta University told the Jordan Times, "is new in the Arab World. It has precedents in the USA, such as the U.S. Military Academy of South Carolina in Charleston, the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington and the Westpoint University. It resembles and draws inspiration especially from the Academy of South Carolina. Taiwan and Greece have similar schools, and Egypt and other countries have military colleges, but they all usually include only some specialisations."

Dr. Mahafza said the idea of establishing a civil military university in Jordan was promoted by His Majesty King Hussein. The purpose of it is "to train students in such a way that they will be-

come accurate, punctual, obedient leaders, loyal to their homeland and to their country, full of initiative and efficient in their work," Dr. Mahafza said. "Especially during the first year," he continued, "they live under tension to make them more aware of all these qualities which can be acquired only by military discipline at the university."

Military, academic training

Dr. Mahafza said that the university concentrates both on the moral and the intellectual aspects of training. This new experiment began three years ago with the Faculty of Police Sciences where two specialisations, law and management, were offered to the students in addition to police sciences and basic military training.

Military training subjects and schedules are the same as those adopted by the Royal Military Academy, Mu'ta University, however, adds to these academic subjects and stretches the training to the duration of four years. For the time being, there are only two colleges at the university, the Military College and the Public Security College which have respectively accepted 300 and 30 of the new batch of students.

The military staff comprises officers, non-commissioned officers and instructors selected from the different units and formations of the Armed Forces. The academic staff includes, at present, 25 teachers, mostly Jordanians. But more than 100 scholars are now studying in the U.S., Britain and France and at the two Jordanian universities for their PhD's and MA's and they will be able to take up posts at the university in 1986-87. Dr. Mahafza expects the university to have its complete academic staff in the coming ten years, in order to expand the number of departments to 28 and the students to 5,000.

The students are chosen from graduates of secondary schools by

a special committee composed of military civilians. "We don't take into consideration only the marks, but also the quality of the person," Dr. Mahafza said. Psychological and physical tests are given to evaluate the students' fitness to serve in the army. This year 330 students were chosen out of 500 applicants. Interviews have been going on since last September for next year's students.

Student numbers

The total number of students at Mu'ta University is presently 437, counting the 107 students who were already attending the Faculty of Political Sciences and who have now moved to the permanent site in Mu'ta. Of these 107, 75 will be graduating this year, while the others are in their third year. The students are given accommodations, clothes and pay similar to the Royal Military Academy's cadet.

Their military training qualifies them to serve in any unit of the armed forces. A cadet may be selected to attend a special course. "There is a contract between the cadets and the armed forces," Brigadier Tayseer, vice president of Mu'ta University explains, "that compels them to serve in the armed forces at least four times as many years as they have spent at the university. If a student fails in his studies, or if he wants to leave before the end of his training, he is supposed to refund the army for all the expenses."

Presently, all the students attending Mu'ta University are Jordanians, but the university is planning to accept students from other Arab countries in the future. The plan for the next few years, until the university will be expanded, is to accept 330 students per year. After the fourth year, the university is also planning to accept civilian students who will not be required to serve in the armed forces after their graduation, but

will have to submit to the same military training during their stay at the campus.

The schedule at Mu'ta University is very rigid, with a 5:30 reveille followed by physical exercise, breakfast, more physical exercises and an hour march. The rest of the day is, presently, devoted to academic studies which take the priority for the first eight weeks at Mu'ta. There is one hour free time before bed, and students are allowed to leave the campus from 1 pm on Thursdays to 4 pm the following day to return to their homes.

Most departments have a planned annual intake of 30 students for each branch of studies. Since regular teaching activities are presently being postponed until the end of February, this gives the departments time to prepare. Departments requiring extra facilities such as laboratories and workshops, such as the departments of engineering and natural sciences, have the advantage that, for the first year, their studies almost overlap and are normally given in the form of lectures, allowing extra time until October '85 to equip the departments.

The dean of the Faculty of Natural Science, Dr. Aston, for example, is presently undertaking a computer science course in Greece. The Department of Natural Sciences has bought eight computers locally.

Related courses

The curriculum of all departments takes military aspects into account and provides courses related to military sciences. "We are aiming at producing well-disciplined and professionally competent graduates to serve the Jordanian society as well as the Jordanian Armed Forces," said Dr. Inayatullah, dean of the Engineering Department.

"Our study plan concentrates on two points," Dr. Abu Shamleh, presently substituting Dr. Aston

at the Department of Natural Sciences further explains, "giving students the minimum basic requirements for a degree in any traditional university and concentrating with equal importance on military training."

After the intensive English course which is now being given by staff of the Human Sciences Department, scientific departments will also offer an intensive scientific English course "to fill in the gaps from what the students have been accustomed to and what they will encounter in the lecture hall," Dr. Abu Shamleh said. "We are taking into consideration all the efforts that other universities have been making to fill in this gap."

The university's library comprises, at the present, 16,000 books in Arabic, for all specialisations, and 7,000 books in English. It also offers 15 periodicals in Arabic and 15 in English. The university is constantly working on enriching the library with more materials.

The university campus comprises, at present, 64 buildings, including lecture halls, restaurants, clubs, laboratories and workshops, a library, offices and living quarters for both students and staff. The students are housed four per room, while the staff have two or three bedroom apartments or larger villas, according to their ranks and to the size of their families.

While these premises are sufficient for the time being, more buildings are needed for the coming four years and a 20,500 square metres plan is under construction, including 27 buildings comprising 16 residences, two dormitories, four lecture halls, two libraries, one club, one restaurant and one administration building, plus another 3,800 square metres plan including ten buildings for military offices.

These buildings will be used for 1,400 students over the next four years. Meanwhile, the contract for

an additional area of about 6,000 dunams in a site near the present campus is under design and the construction will start expectedly in 1986, expected to be completed by 1992. All buildings are simply designed frame buildings and all materials used are locally produced.

Mu'ta budget

The university's budget for 1984 was JD 5,595,500. JD 1,730,000 of which was spent for developments and JD 400,000 for scholarships. The income amounted to JD 3,700,000. JD 500,000 of which came from government grants. JD 1,800,000 from university taxes. JD 700,000 from fees and JD 200,000 from investments. The prime minister has promised to cover for the difference, which amounts to JD 1,895,500. Extra financial support also come from other institutions, such as the Central Bank of Jordan which has been helping with approximately JD 60,000 per year. Next year's budget is estimated to exceed JD 10,000,000.

Dr. Mahafza says that the position of Mu'ta University is very important also from an economic and social point of view. "The areas surrounding Karak and all the southern region of Jordan are very rich in natural resources, with important cement plants, phosphate mines and fertiliser plants," he explained. "The university should help these companies to develop their projects through its research in the area, as well as provide the area with the qualified personnel by preparing special training courses at the university site. The university has also taken into consideration the improvement of personnel's performance in educational and governmental departments in the area by providing them also with special courses and training programmes," he concluded.

USAID signs agreement to train staff for water projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will finance a training programme which will be offered to 24 Jordanian engineers and technicians who will supervise water projects for the Amman and Irbid regions.

An agreement signed here Thursday provides for the Jordanian staff and personnel employed by the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) and the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) to receive a two-month training period in the United States and an additional 12 month period in Jordan to manage

these projects. The Jordanian authorities are currently undertaking projects to supply the Amman area with water from Deir Alla in the Jordan Valley and to supply Irbid with water from Wadi Al Arab region. This project entails building pumping stations and purification plants in addition to laying the pipelines to carry the water.

The agreement was signed by JVA President Munther Haddadin and a representative of the American company which now supervises the implementation of the projects in Jordan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hellenic Congress to be held in Athens

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and Development decided to hold the Congress "Arab Hellenic Congress for Economic Cooperation" (Trade-Investment-Development) in Athens on the 18th, 19th and 20th March 1985, according to an Embassy of Greece press release. The congress will deal with such sectors as tourism, construction, agriculture and agricultural industries, cattle-breeding and fisheries, merchant marine, construction and maintenance of ships, transport and transit problems, storage, minerals and metallurgy, investment financing organisations.

Police find clue to Irbid murder

IRBID (J.T.) — The Public Security personnel at Irbid Governorate found clue to the ugly murder of Zaid Mohammad which took place earlier this week. Director of Irbid Police Department Colonel Abdul Rahman Al Adwan told reporters that the victim's wife identified only as S, and his three sons identified as AWH, WM and WD committed the crime by banging him nearby their house, meanwhile investigations to find out the motive after this crime have started.

Citizens pray for rainfall

AMMAN (Petra) — A large number of Jordanians gathered Friday at Hamza Mosque for holding rain prayers. During the prayers, Official Judge Mustafa Al Rafati called on Muslims to pray to God to have mercy with his creatures in giving them drinking water and to have rainfalls.

Heroine importer sentenced

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Rashed Hayel Ibrahim to eight years in prison and the payment of JD 3,000 for importing heroine. The military governor has endorsed the sentence.

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's Al Ra'i: Behind the Sisco argument

IT IS hard to believe claims by Joseph Sisco, former U.S. assistant secretary of state, that his tour of this Middle East region and his views which he expressed at his press gathering in Amman were personal and do not reflect the stand of the American administration. We strongly believe that Sisco is still entrusted by the U.S. government to promote Washington's views and policies around the world. This was clear from Sisco's emphasis on Washington's policy that the Middle East question should not be tackled by an international conference but rather through U.S. diplomacy. But all American officials and observers of Middle East developments agree on one point: That U.S. policies in this region have been a total failure because Washington has chosen to support the Zionist aggression on Arab countries.

We have no objection to Washington's mediation, but we do not want it to be totally biased towards Israel, supporting its actions and trying to impose on the Arabs Zionist terms.

Sisco expressed the view that the Soviet Union and Syria should not be included in the peace-making process, and this statement reveals that the U.S. still pursues a wrong course. Despite its knowledge of the futility of its actions, it continues to seek ways that only are bound to erode whatever is left of its credibility and portrays it as a collaborator with the Zionist criminals.

Al Distour: UNRWA's annual outcry

WE CAN only understand UNRWA's measures to reduce its services in Palestine refugees as part of an overall plan to liquidate the Palestinian people themselves. The major powers which planted Israel in the midst of the Arab World and uprooted the Palestinians from their homeland early this century now continue to pursue their plan to bolster the presence of the Zionist state in the Middle East and erase for ever any reminder of the Palestinian people.

Hence we see UNRWA's measures are adopted for reducing the educational and health services for the refugees in their camps under different pretexts, mainly lack of sufficient funds.

Despite the annual recurrence of the budget fiasco and the great outcry it causes among the refugees, and despite the cables that are being sent annually protesting UNRWA's measures, no solution has been found.

The reason for the lack of solutions so far is that UNRWA's measures are indeed part of a plan for liquidating the agency and the Palestinian refugee problem.

The nations which planted Israel in our midst have succeeded in strengthening this Zionist state to a great extent and the current drive to liquidate UNRWA is aimed at removing the last traces which remind the world of the presence of the Palestinians.

Sawt Al Shaab: UNRWA funds shortage part of a plot

THE PROBLEM of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and its budget deficit are closely linked with the aggressive policies of the United States and Israel and their collusion against the Palestinian people. The whole world realises the great ordeal of the Palestinian people and their sufferings at the hand of the Zionists and their criminal actions in Lebanon and Palestine. The more the Zionists have been displaying their criminal actions the more complicated UNRWA problems have become.

UNRWA has been trying to reduce its services to the refugees under the pretext that it has not sufficient funds, but the general situation and the developments in the region point to a conspiracy for liquidating the agency's operations.

The United States which has been contributing to UNRWA's funds has now turned its attention to help Israel settle thousands of Ethiopian Jews in Israel, at a time when the Israeli government is pursuing efforts to build more settlements on Arab land and evicting the Palestinians from their country. The United States is helping Ethiopians to settle in a land whose people have been driven out by the Zionists, who continue their aggression against the Arabs. Moreover, the U.S. has been doing all that it can to obstruct UNRWA's services to the Palestinian refugees and perpetuating Israel's occupation of Palestine.

Thursday's Al Ra'i: Seeking self-reliance

JORDAN'S CALL on Arab states to build an intrinsic Arab force to confront all threats and challenges emanates from the belief that peace has to be supported by power that can ensure respect from other nations. Jordan has therefore sought to purchase defence weapons from the Soviet Union and is continuing to negotiate with France and Britain to obtain more such weapons. This means that Jordan, despite its meagre income and despite the failure of Arab states to honour their financial commitments to it, is going ahead with a programme for defence and will not allow the enemy to find it an easy prey.

Jordan is seeking to arm itself against aggression, at a time when the Israelis are being continuously supplied with sophisticated weapons to carry out aggression on the Arab Nation. Jordan will continue to seek to liberate the occupied Arab lands, but at the same time it will remain open to true and genuine peace efforts. For this reason, Jordan has announced that it will never take unilateral steps to reach agreement with the enemy and has made it clear that it considers itself as part of the overall Arab power that can force the Israelis to accept the terms of peace and justice.

Al Distour: Badly needed agreement

THE WHOLE world was delighted to hear the news of the two superpowers meeting in Geneva to try to end their differences and start a new chapter of cooperation and coexistence. The world nations see in any agreement between the two superpowers a chance for them to get together to find solutions to the many problems that have been plaguing this planet and threatening its nations with destruction.

Agreement between the superpowers means an end to the cold war and a new phase of détente between East and West is about to be launched.

The people of the Middle East region share the world's welcome and delight at this rapprochement and look with optimism towards the future. They, however, hope that the new atmosphere will be conducive towards solving the Middle East issues that have been fuelling the cold war and complicating matters for the superpowers.

Ethiopian famine triggers low-key aid contest

By John Rogers
Reuters

LONDON — The Ethiopian famine has triggered a muted East-West aid contest in the strategic Horn of Africa which Western officials believe they are winning. But Western relief workers say the Soviet Union and its allies, after a slow start, are making a big effort to help the starving government. They see contributions as largely complementary, with the West giving most of the food and the Soviet bloc most of the transport.

Such calculations are not the only political fallout from the famine in Ethiopia, which threatens more than seven million people.

In a flurry of charges and denials this week, disclosure of an operation to evacuate thousands of Ethiopian Jews to Israel sparked Arab criticism of Sudan for helping an airlift from Sudanese territory. Khartoum accused Ethiopia of trading Jews for Israeli arms.

International aid efforts are complicated by a civil war between the Ethiopian government and separatist guerrillas in the northern provinces of Eritrea and Tigre.

Some Western agencies, saying all official aid goes to Addis Ababa, work only with famine relief groups in rebel-held areas.

An East-West aid contest exists because the Horn of Africa is strategically important and has a history of shifting allegiances. Ethiopia and Somalia — in dispute over the Ogaden Desert region — "swapped sides" in 1977, with Moscow switching support to Ethiopia and Washington backing Somalia.

Verbal crossfire is muted, and largely in the media, because officials do not like to acknowledge an element of competition in giving aid — especially emergency help in a major crisis.

"If there is a contest at all, it is pretty one-sided," said a British

official. "The West is giving far more."

Ethiopia has praised both sides and President Mengistu Haile Mariam has said it is impossible to compare different types of assistance by dollar value.

The Ethiopian crisis prompted large aid donations by Western governments only after a vivid television film of famine victims last October made a big impact on public opinion.

Non-government relief workers on periodic assignment to Ethiopia say all governments were slow off the mark, but the West was quicker than Moscow.

Moscow has concentrated on logistical help, sending 10 water-drilling rigs, more than 340 trucks and other vehicles to aid grain distribution, transport planes and helicopters, as well as rice and clothes.

Western aid has included transport and other equipment, but has consisted mostly of food. "One expects most from those

which have most," a worker for Britain's Christian Aid Movement said, contrasting foodgrain surpluses in European Community countries, the United States, Canada and Australia with grain imports by Moscow.

The political aspect of aid was evident from early in famine relief operations. Ethiopia denied Western press reports that some European Community aid was being diverted to the army.

Soviet newspapers made few direct references to the extent of the famine.

While reporting Moscow's own aid effort, they published several articles accusing the West of responsibility for drought and famine in Africa.

Communist countries have long accused the West of squeezing Africa dry of resources. They assert that poverty of developing nations stems from economic rape while they were colonies and that it is largely up to Western former colonial powers to compensate for

it by helping them build up their economies.

Soviet newspapers said Western aid to Addis Ababa was aimed at short-term gain while Soviet assistance, under an economic cooperation accord signed in September, was long-term.

Western governments accuse Moscow of giving aid largely to Communist and other "friendly" regimes, of concentrating on military aid and of leaving the West to provide the bulk of development assistance.

U.S. White House spokesman Larry Speakes said in November he hoped Soviet emergency aid indicated a policy change away from "overwhelmingly military-oriented programmes in the Third World."

The United States also accused Ethiopia of not committing enough of its own resources to famine relief at first.

Competition for influence will certainly continue. Relief agencies

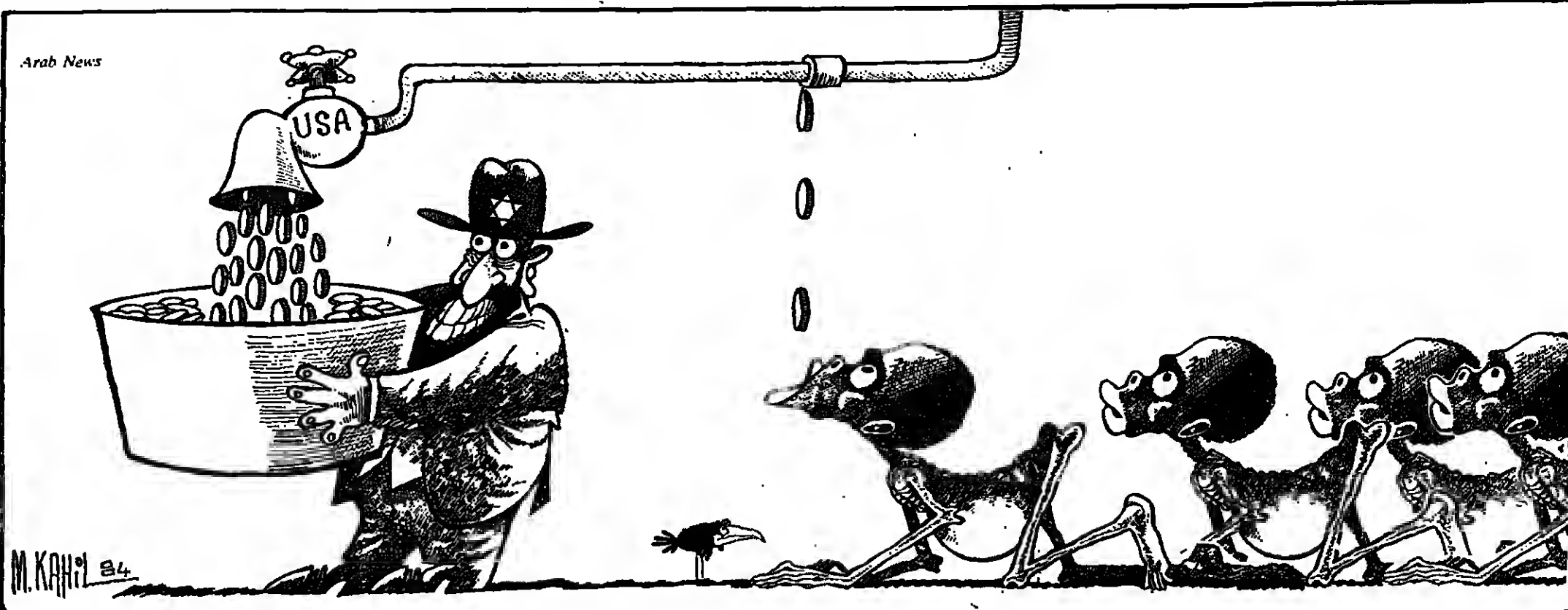
forecast a need for big supplies of food and other emergency aid in Ethiopia as well as other drought-hit African countries throughout 1985.

Already the United States, by far the biggest single donor, has pledged one billion dollars in famine aid to Africa this year. Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko, praising Ethiopia's relief efforts last month, said Moscow's aid effort will continue.

Moscow has its overall position in Africa to consider. Ethiopia is one of its few close friends on the continent, with an estimated 1,700 Soviet military advisers and substantial military aid as well as several thousand allied Cuban troops.

Last year, Moscow suffered setbacks when two other friendly governments, Marxist-ruled Angola and Mozambique, signed once-unthinkable accords with South Africa aimed at ending regional guerrilla conflicts.

Arab News



No big change likely from U.S. job swap

By Terence Hunt
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan's approval of a surprise job swap by his staff chief and treasury secretary removes an archenemy of hardline conservatives from the White House but probably does not signal a major change in development of administration policy.

Only 24 hours after the idea was first presented to him, Mr. Reagan announced Tuesday that Treasury Secretary Donald T. Regan had worked out a deal with Chief of Staff James A. Baker III to change jobs.

The two officials, in conjunction with White House Deputy Chief of Staff Michael K. Deaver, had been engineering the switch secretly since before Christmas and took it to the president only after

they had hatched all the details. As much as anything, the behind-the-scenes planning and last-minute endorsement from the president underscored the image of Mr. Reagan as a chief executive who delegates extraordinary power to his subordinates and counts on them to develop a consensus requiring only his approval or disapproval.

In the eyes of conservatives, Mr. Baker was the leader of White House moderates, eager to negotiate compromises that diluted deals espoused by the president.

His supporters prefer to view him as a pragmatist who would rather settle for what is possible than lose a battle standing on principle. Mr. Baker repeatedly joined forces with Budget Director David Stockman to try to sell Mr. Reagan on tax hikes and cuts in the defence budget.

Although Mr. Regan is not viewed as an insider by the far right, he has championed the president's conservative ideology in general and served as the chief defender of Mr. Regan's tax and budget-cutting programme, even under the heavy fire and doubt spawned by the deep recession in 1981-1982.

The question now is how Mr. Regan will run the White House and how much influence Baker will retain in his new job.

"Conservatives are encouraged by (Regan's) views on some economic issues, but he's not an ideologue," said former White House communications chief David Gergen. "On foreign policy issues, it's important to remember that his closest friend is George Shultz," who is regarded as a moderate.

Lyn Nofziger, former political director of the White House and a

force in the conservative movement, said Mr. Regan may not be regarded as a sympathiser by the right wing but may serve as a closer ally than Mr. Baker did in the office so close to the president.

"The conservatives will just be glad to see somebody that they didn't quite trust gone," Mr. Nofziger said.

Yet some conservatives view the change warily.

"Conservatives have been holding their breath waiting for Jim Baker to leave," according to Richard Viguerie, publisher of the Conservative Digest, a magazine of great influence in conservative circles.

But Mr. Viguerie said conservatives had hoped Mr. Baker would be more receptive to conservative interests than Mr. Baker.

Environment politics dog Austrian energy future plans

By Peter Humphrey
Reuters

VIENNA — Austria's coalition government, under threat last month following stormy protests and bloody clashes at a planned hydro-electric dam site, has come through its worst domestic policy crisis since coming to power in mid-1983.

Chancellor Fred Sinowatz says he has not abandoned plans to build the controversial Hainburg Dam on the Danube. But the mass environmental protest movement has forced the Socialists to shelve for the second time in six years large-scale plans at the heart of their energy strategy.

Six years ago a referendum was held on a wave of popular opposition to nuclear power that resulted in the mothballing of Austria's only nuclear power plant, which has since lain idle.

This year opened with Mr. Sinowatz postponing for at least a year the Hainburg Dam, east of Vienna, after mass protests and bloody clashes between police and demonstrators trying to save one of Europe's last primeval flood forests.

The blood spilled when police stormed a squatter camp at the site last month, throwing the government into disarray and seriously threatening the Socialist-rightwing coalition, political analysts said.

Some 14,000 people marched through Vienna protesting not only against Hainburg but also against the police action.

An internal inquiry is under way at the Interior Ministry.

Mr. Sinowatz recently reshuffled several ministers to stop a local political scandal getting out of hand and would be hard pressed if he had to make further changes over the Hainburg issue.

A faction of the rightwing Freedom Party, which owed many votes to "green-minded" voters, called on their leader, Norbert Steger, to quit the coalition while opposition People's Party leader, Alois Mock, demanded a referendum on Hainburg.

Austria's figurehead President Rudolf Kirchschlaeger — a Socialist — said the Hainburg row had shown the need for more direct democratic mechanisms in the constitution.

All this was over a 50 square kilometre tract of Aulwaid swamp forest, a miniature Amazonia formed by eons of flooding by the sluggish River Danube and prized by scientists for its rare birds, animals and plants and its healing

waters. The Hainburg Dam would deprive it of the floodwater that its ecosystem requires to survive.

But the power plant is a vital part of the Socialist's energy strategy. It is the penultimate of 10 large hydro dams on the Austrian Danube.

Originally scheduled to open in 1987, it would produce 2.1 billion kilowatts of electric power annually. If all 10 plants are built — the last one is planned west of Vienna — they will generate 14.3 billion kilowatts a year, 25 per cent of Austria's electricity demand.

The all-Socialist government of former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky had already lost, with the shelving of Zwentendorf nuclear plant, a capacity of 4.2 billion kilowatts a year.

The power industry has spent \$20 million mothballing the Zwentendorf plant hoping for a future turnaround of the referendum.

The latest setback was a hard blow for the government. Two months ago it fixed a 10-year policy boosting reliance on hydro-electric power and cutting expenditure on oil and gas.

On million Dollars will be lost if the Hainburg Dam is dropped. Danube Power Plant Company Director Josef Koblik said.

After the violence, Mr. Sinowatz sought a face-saving "Austrian solution" to preserve the image of the neutral state known for peaceful compromises and to leave the impression of government authority intact.

He postponed work at Hainburg and issued a new 11-point energy-environment package. One point reaffirmed the hydropower commitment and upheld the concept of a Hainburg power plant but said new variants of that plan would be studied.

The package also set up expert commissions on energy and environment. It promised clarification of legal issues raised by the row, money for anti-pollution and compensatory jobs, and a national park near Hainburg. It is not clear how much of the Aulwaid forest the park will include.

Nobel scientist Konrad Lorenz, in whose name the protest movement was launched, said Mr. Sinowatz's action produced "two winners and no losers".

Mr. Sinowatz has won a breathing space, political analysts say. The Hainburg hydro-dam could give way to several smaller plants elsewhere and the last of the 10 Danube dams could now be brought forward.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "فكر اقتصادي"

A lot more than just mines closed in Britain's longest strike

Mr. Norman Willis, the British Trade Unions' Congress (BTUC) general secretary, forecasts that the 10-month-old coal strike could rumble on for months, and perhaps years, if the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and the National Coal Board do not reach a negotiated settlement. He said that the increasing poverty and tensions which were being produced in the coalfields were a clear warning to the government that the strike must not be allowed to drift on. "There will be tens of thousands of miners who will not go back to work until there has been a negotiated settlement," he declared. Peter Jenkins visits the Yorkshire coalfields and reports.

MY FRIEND lives in what is hopefully called Sunny Avenue, South Emsall. The mining villages in this part of Yorkshire are strung together in small conurbations, never quite town or country. South Emsall, South Kirkby, Upton, Hemsworth all merge into one another, eventually becoming part of Doncaster which is the capital of what sees itself as the most militant district of the Yorkshire coalfield.

As the villages sprawl together on the surface, their pits, Frickley (which belongs to South Emsall) and South Kirkby, meet underground. Yet they are separate worlds. The pit in Upton closed a few years ago. "Upton is a ghost town now," a miner's wife informed me. Her husband had transferred to Frickley from Upton. "You either have to move or travel," she said. Upton is all of two miles away.



Miners' wives prepare meals at the Social Centre, South Emsall.

Bill travels to work at Hickleton in Thurnscoe, which is four miles away. He is a colliery joiner. His wife Janet has a secretary's job in Doncaster. They both come from local mining families. Bill's brother is a police inspector in Sheffield who has been in charge of policing Cortonwood, Hickleton, which has a reputation as a left-wing pit, was the first to vote to support the Cortonwood men when the strike was triggered there in March.

At Hickleton it takes some 1,400 men to produce a bit under a million tonnes a year. It is the deepest pit in the locality and very hot down below; the men take salt tablets and work in four foot seams. At the new super-pit at Selby 2,200 men can get 10 million tonnes a year. If those are the economics of mining where are all the men to go, Bill asks?

The Coal Board calculates the cost of production at Hickleton at £123 a tonne which, if so, makes it a champion uneconomic pit. Bill disputes this. Like nearly all miners he is a great expert on his own pit. "This dispute hasn't happened over night," he says. His economic history of Hickleton goes back over eight years, a story of investment starvation and manpower reduction. Management has made the pit uneconomic in order to close it.

There is not much point in trying to check the facts and figures. All the miners say much the same thing. They say it not because Arthur Scargill says it but because of what they think is happening at their own pits. They would agree with Rousseau who said "The nature of things does not madden us, only ill will does." They believe the policy of the Board and the government is to run down their

'The men and women of these mining families are of a proud species threatened with extinction ... The Prime Minister and her government inhabit a different moral universe'

pits and then sell off the good ones, such as Selby, to private enterprise.

What the government calls economic offensives against what these miners call morality. The moral assumptions of Thatcherism are utterly repugnant to them. Working underground makes it seem self-evident to them that life is about mutual dependence. They set no store by economic individualism. Their saying is "good seams make good colliers".

The productivity bonus scheme is offensive to them because — they quote Scargill — "it sets men against men." Bill thinks it is right that low cost pits should help the others. He says, "This isn't just an argument between Arthur Scargill and Maggie Thatcher. It goes deeper than that. It is about the government being ready to help people because people are dependent."

At the Miners' Welfare Club old couples are dancing the Anniversary Waltz. Bill introduces me to some friends including local NUM branch officials. They are back from court in Pontefract giving evidence on behalf of pickets. If they were witnesses they had attended a mass picket, said the Steward, and bound the lot of them over for "besetting".

They were full of complaints about the police and the media. Frank's children had seen the recent World in Action programme. "They wanted to know were you there, Dad? They're going to think I'm some kind of law-breaker."

"His father's either a thug or television's wrong," said Roy. Reg said: "I'm 36 and I've never been in trouble with police all my life. Now I'm enemy within. Some kind of criminal. My kids know that's not me. So does my wife. They resent it."

Nothing is more resented, I discovered, than the Prime Minister's remark. A typical comment from a much older miner was "they didn't call us enemy within when we were digging for f...g victory." Margaret Thatcher's insult to the miners of Great Britain will not be soon forgotten. She will be remembered like Churchill for Tonypandy.

The president of the branch, Tony, was as bald as Kojak and wore his dark glasses. He tried to sum up what it was they were fighting for. "It's such a broad issue," he said. "It's like chucking a stone in a pond and the ripples spreading. You're fighting for your pit first of all. But you're fighting for your village and your kids' future. And you're fighting, I hope to God, for a police force that don't get out of hand, 'cos we've got to have a police force. And you're fighting for trade union movement because this union has only been

loaned to us by my grandfather." Then as an afterthought, he added: "It's brought us closer as a community this strike. It's done a Falklands on us."

We move on. If miners don't like travelling far to work they'll drive miles for a pint. At another club, Jack, who's a management man but with a great deal more sympathy for the miners than for Ian MacGregor or Margaret Thatcher, says: "It's only loyalty to the branches that's keeping them out now."

That loyalty is immensely strong and is much more of a factor than the intimidation which has been going on. At the three local pits the number of men "going in" is two, four and six. The strike is going to die hard in these parts.

The next morning the pickets are out as usual. At four o'clock, Bill and I walk up to Frickley through cold, wet, orange-lit streets. Nothing happens; there's a shove and a shout and the two men go in. I go back to a warm bed.

When men first went in to Frickley a few weeks ago there were riot shields and horses and broken windows and arrests, and the usual mutual accusations of violence. The pattern, at least in this part of West Yorkshire, seems to be a flare of violent anger when a pit reopens, after which things settle down to a routine morning ritual, usually without incident. Low profile picketing is the general order round here, and it does seem to keep the level of violence down. The wives who run the meal centre have been dubbed the "Frickley Wonder Women". They have escaped from their own kitchens to cook 200 dinners and breakfasts a day for the men on strike. Brenda was managing on £32 a week from the Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS) and £13 in family allowance but her mortgage was £20 a week and there was the water rates and the phone and a video which couldn't go back. Barbara, with one son, was also "managing" on £13.65 plus £6.85.

Her boy was having free school dinners and her husband coming into the centre for his breakfast and dinner. "At night we have toast and a few chips," she says with a cheerful laugh. "It's the kids you feel sorry for, isn't it?"

"It's the kids' clothes are the main problem," says another Brenda. "There's an allowance from council, which we appreciate, but it's not enough for a coat and shoes."

"We didn't miss our summer holidays at all," says the first Brenda with a happy smile.

"We did," says Merle, who is married to one of Bill's many cousins.

"I mean we knew no one else was having a holiday, didn't we?" says Brenda.

Two of their sons are "considering army". There hasn't been a pit job in the villages for some years, or so they claim. Bill says: "We've got lads of 22 who've never worked and never will."

The cold's the real thing. We're freezing," says Merle. "Aye, you should see the rubbish we put on fires." We leave them complaining about the police chasing their men off the tips and merrily discussing the uses of bricks in graves.

In the shadow of the tip (which is a phrase I heard a miner use) men are digging muddy holes as deep as themselves, sieving dirt for scraps of coal to burn. Last week someone found an 1806 penny and today it's a George V

Coronation mug, but the handle is broken off.

Inside the Empire Club the old men remember Manny Shinwell in the cinema across the road dealing with the hecklers. That was in 1947 when the miners of Grimethorpe started a famous strike which raged through Yorkshire, the first big one after nationalisation. But these old men had "nowt against nationalisation", before they were "slaves" they insisted. They showed me how the old colliery managers had selected miners for work by pinching their biceps. A young face worker, with biceps as big as his belly, chipped in and said: "We could have done with Arthur Scargill 30 years ago."

Friday night in the Coronation Club opposite the gates of Hickleton colliery and the strikers are keeping up as best they can the old tradition called pay night. George is 51 and has worked 35 years at the face. He is said to have broken a record, earning £400 in a week. He is wearing an expensive lambs wool pullover, handwashed, and his hair is blown dry. He looks terrific, chest puffed out and chin up high, and he is a brilliant conversationalist. He tells me what he thinks of Nottinghamshire miners: "In war they took two days to capture one f...g hill, Sherwood Foresters."

Keith tells tales of the picket lines. He's been all over Yorkshire into Notts. He was there at Orgreave and advised Scargill. "Thee get down there, Arthur," but Arthur didn't and was nicked. Keith's stories are not of police brutality but of mindless, petty harassments: he was held eleven hours in cells for a trumped up minor motoring offence and then



Striking miners sieving dirt for scraps of coal at South Emsall

not charged. But on another occasion, in a municipal car park where they had paid 35p for the van, there were 40 pickets and only seven police, who tried to move them on. "I put one in a bramble bush and asked others, 'Does thou want seven shades of shit kicked out of thee?'"

How will the strike ever end? "We've survived this far. No good going back for now."

"In the end they'll move coal by army. That's either her downfall

or her victory. Could go either way."

"It's not up to Arthur Scargill. When there's no compromise, it'll come up from branches and areas, and Arthur Scargill will have to compromise."

"People go on about Arthur Scargill, but only thing Arthur Scargill can do is what he's told. At end of day it's how many stick their hands up."

"You can't get less than now, can you?"

The men and women of these mining families are of a proud species threatened with extinction. A great persistence has been visited upon their communities and, in their innocence, they now await

some more benign intervention from outside. London, Westminster, the TUC, the Labour Party are worlds away from their villages. The prime minister and her government inhabit a different moral universe.

My friend, Bill, sees it this way. "People round here aren't prepared to lie down and have their bollocks kicked in like the rest of the four million unemployed. Per-

sonally, I'm prepared to stay out until the day the government recognises that what I'm doing is beneficial to the country. I'm even prepared to see my pit close. If pits are going to close it's going to be our decision not Thatcher's." — The Guardian.

Returned Chinese writes of two years in the U.S. 'melting pot'

By Jeremy Clift

PEKING — "Be aggressive". That was Chinese author Liu Zongren's first survival lesson in the United States.

After a spate of books by Americans about China, Mr. Liu has turned the tables with an outsider's view of life in the U.S.

In "Two Years in the Melting Pot", Mr. Liu gives an insight into how it feels to be pitched from Communist China into the land of computers, Cadillac cars and cornflakes.

He speaks of the culture shock he felt on arrival, his indignation at the poverty in a land so rich, his appreciation of Beatles music and jeans, and of his sometimes comic encounters with bare breasts and a differing sexual morality.

He often felt as if he came from another planet, like the "Extra Terrestrial" in Stephen Spielberg's science-fiction film E.T. about a visitor from outer space who wanted to return home.

He writes of attempts to win friends and understand American society, of "steaks cooked rare

that seemed to ooze blood and upset my stomach" and of an orchard where apples rotted while the family he was staying with drove to market to buy fruit.

At first Mr. Liu felt lonely in the broad streets of suburban Chicago — "so few people walked in them" — and humbled by elegant houses along lakeshore drive.

He was confused by adverts that "encourage dogs to eat more and humans to eat less", and found jogging faintly ridiculous.

"Americans will spend an hour jogging, but will usually drive to work over a distance we (Chinese) could cover in 20 minutes by walking."

Persecuted during the Cultural Revolution that ended in 1976, Mr. Liu won a place on a journalism course in the United States in an English exam conducted by his magazine, the state-run English-language publication "China Reconstructs".

He went to study in Chicago in late 1980, first at Northwestern University and later at the University of Illinois.

Now, at the age of 44, he is

happy to be back at his old job in Peking as a translator for the magazine.

"I never really got used to life there," he said, sitting in an old anorak in the dusty offices of Peking's foreign languages publishing house. "Every day I used to dream of life in China."

With 10,000 Chinese now studying in the U.S. and more being sent as part of China's effort to modernise, the culture gap is an acute problem for Peking planners. Mr. Liu said a classmate gave him his first lesson on survival in the U.S.: "Be aggressive."

"By nature, Chinese are shy and modest, not as outgoing as Americans," he said. "But in the United States if you are too modest, you get nowhere."

Mr. Liu was shocked by the difference between Chicago's rich white suburbs and its poor black ghettos, and he believes Americans set a bad example for the world to follow.

"Because of their standards, people in other countries are learning to evaluate life only in terms of material possessions."

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McEnroe, Wilander clinch Masters semifinal berths

NEW YORK (R) — John McEnroe and Mats Wilander both came back from the brink of defeat to reach the semifinals of the Grand Prix Masters Tennis Championship at Madison Square Garden Thursday night.

McEnroe pulled back from one set and 3-0 down to beat Sweden's Anders Jarryd 2-6, 6-4, 6-2, while Wilander had to save three match points before beating American Johan Kriek 6-4, 3-6, 7-6.

The scene is now set for an intriguing showdown between the two men, who between them, claimed three of the four major titles last year. McEnroe winning the Wimbledon and U.S. Open crowns with Wilander remaining

the Australian Open.

McEnroe, Masters Champion in 1978 and 1983, has never won over his fellow-New Yorkers and he incurred their wrath again in the sixth game of the second set when one fan called out, "come on, John."

The exhortation failed to impress McEnroe, who snapped back: "Shut up, will you," provoking scattered boos.

But the jeers turned to cheers when the local boy made good with a tremendous victory which had looked unlikely in the early stages of the match.

Jarryd played inspired tennis for the first 11 games — as well, McEnroe said later, as anyone had ever played against him.

The turning point came in the fourth game of the second set when the Swede again held a

break-point before McEnroe held serve with a forehand winner, an ace and a service winner.

McEnroe, who had lost to Jarryd once in four previous meetings — on cement in Montreal three years ago — never looked back. He broke Jarryd in the fifth and ninth games to level at one set all as he took complete command.

The final set was something of an anti-climax. Jarryd, who partnered Stefan Edberg to beat McEnroe and Peter Fleming in the crucial doubles in the Davis Cup final last month, surrendered his service in the first and fifth games and later admitted: "I started thinking I was going to win when I got to 3-0 in the second set. After that, I choked."

McEnroe was quick to praise his opponent. "I never saw him play like that," he said. "It was as good as anyone has ever played for a set and a half against me."

Wilander had an even narrower escape against Kriek who stood within one point of victory on three occasions in the 12th game.

The American squandered two chances to secure a place in the last four when he netted two backhands and Wilander saved the third match point with a superb forehand topspin lob.

Gross breaks another record

SYDNEY (R) — Olympic Champion Michael Gross of West Germany sliced more than three-quarters of a second off the Australian 200-metre freestyle record at the New South Wales Swimming Championships Friday.

Gross, who won two gold medals at the Los Angeles Olympics, reduced Justin Lemberg's record by 0.79 seconds with his time of 1 minute 50.69 seconds.

3 towns bid for '92 Winter Olympics

BAD KLEINKIRCHHEIM, Austria (R) — Three towns from different European countries are making a novel bid to host the 1992 Winter Olympics which they say rules out political boycotts.

Villach in Austria, Tarvisio of Italy and Yugoslavia's Kranjska Gora will hand their plans to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) this year, the promoters told Reuters at a World Cup skiing event in this village near Villach.

The three towns, under an hour's drive from each other, form a triangle in Europe where the Germanic, Latin and Slav races meet.

Organisers say the scheme is cheap, offers exceptional sporting conditions and reflects the Olympic charter's basic aim of fostering international goodwill.

But the bid will challenge the

charter which states that the games should be held in one country, Italian promoter Giorgio Baldassini said.

"Though we are three countries, we feel we are one region, we have good relations and politically the will is there," Baldassini said.

Yugoslavia, host of the 1984 Winter Olympics, is a socialist country but not a Soviet bloc member. Italy is a member of the western alliance and Austria is a neutral state.

"Collective realisation of the games would be a novelty in the history of the Olympics. No antagonism of particular countries' systems is expected," the three towns said in a brochure on the scheme.

The last two Summer Olympics in Moscow and Los Angeles were

both disrupted by political boycotts.

The promoters are proceeding with the preparation of detailed plans despite IOC President Samaranch quoting the one-country rule when quizzed recently by Italian reporters, Baldassini said.

The three towns' main rivals are Cortina (Italy), Lillehammer (Norway), Albertville (France), Falun (Sweden), Berchtesgaden (West Germany) and Sofia (Bulgaria).

Otto Wanker of Villach's tourism office said infrastructure and communications improvements were being undertaken and the region could meet Olympic requirements by 1990.

The winter sports areas of the three towns are between 550 and 2,200 metres above sea-level.

Blood doping in Olympic village was common knowledge, says British coach

LONDON (R) — The United States cycling team's alleged 'blood doping' transfusions in Los Angeles was common knowledge in the Olympic village, British team manager Jim Hendry said Friday.

Hendry was speaking in reaction to a report released on Wednesday night by the American magazine Rolling Stone which said members of the triumphant U.S. squad, which picked up an impressive haul of gold, silver and bronze medals, had been given the performance-boosting transfusions in a hotel room.

"The whole thing stinks," said Hendry. "We knew it was going on and we also knew we could do nothing about it... it was common knowledge."

Rolling Stone, which will publish the report in its January 29 issue, said gold medalist Steve Hogg was among those given the blood transfusions.

U.S. Olympic cycling team manager Mike Fraysee, while not denying the report, told Reuters on Wednesday night that 'blood doping' was not illegal under International Olympic Committee (IOC) rules.

"Regardless of the rules, one must deplore anything that is an artificial means of raising per-

formance," said Hendry. "It's just the same as using drugs."

"If we had voiced our concern and disapproval at the time we would have had to prove it... it would also have smacked of sour grapes."

"Perhaps this disclosure will bring the whole thing to a head."

Guignard wins 2nd slalom event

BAD KLEINKIRCHHEIM, Austria (R) — Christelle Guignard of France further enhanced her growing stature on the women's World Cup ski circuit by winning her second slalom of the season Friday.

Guignard, whose previous best result was sixth in a slalom in Verbier last season before her first World Cup win in Davos last month, won from Italy's Maria-Rosa Quario.

Starting from 19th position, she won the first leg with 48 gates and a height difference of 130 metres in an electrifying time of 42.49 seconds — almost a second better than Quario, who was second fastest.

Quario turned the tables on the 51-gate second leg but Guignard's overall time of one minute 26.17 seconds left her 0.32 seconds ahead of the Italian.

High jumper Zhu heads Chinese team to World Indoor Games

PEKING (R) — The failure of China's high jump world record holder Zhu Jianhua to strike gold at last year's Los Angeles Olympics has led Chinese athletics chiefs to break with tradition...

The Chinese Athletics Association announced Friday it was sending a nine-strong squad to compete in the World Indoor Games in Paris next week, the first Chinese athletics team ever to compete abroad during the winter.

And the policy shift is a direct consequence of Zhu's Olympic failure, Qi Zutan, deputy coach of the national track and field squad, told the New China News Agency.

Qi said the decision to send athletes to Paris and to other competitions in Australia and Japan this month marked a 'major departure from traditional Chinese sports philosophy.'

"We have drawn a good lesson from Zhu's failure at Los Angeles caused by his lack of international competition experience," he said. "We have decided to let our athletes go abroad to compete in order to enrich their experience

and competitive abilities. This is the first time China has sent athletics teams abroad to compete during the winter."

Qi said most Chinese coaches, influenced by Soviet sports theory of the 1950s, used to ensure athletes avoided winter competition to concentrate on basic training.

As a result of being sheltered Zhu was unprepared for the competition he faced at the Olympics.

Qi added, He only won a bronze medal after breaking the world record for the third time in a year last June, raising it to 2.39 metres. Ironically, Zhu, still China's most popular sportsman, cannot benefit immediately from the new policy. He was omitted from the squad for France because he is tired and out of shape said Qi.

But he said Zhu should appear at several international competitions before the winter's end.

The team competing at the two-day Paris meeting starting on January 18 includes Yan Hong, who holds the world best time for the five and 10 km walks, and four Asian record holders.

FIFA announces '86 World Cup schedule

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — Billed as the "30 days of Mexico", the timetable for the 1986 World Cup finals was announced Friday by soccer's world governing body FIFA (International Federation of Association Football).

The competition, involving 24 teams playing 52 games in nine cities, opens on May 31 next year, when Italy begins its defence of the title.

Over the next 13 days 35 more group matches will be staged before the competition becomes a knock-out.

After a rest day, 16 teams will go into a second round played between June 15 and 18.

Two rest days will precede the quarterfinals, due to be staged on June 21 and 22 and after two more rest days, the semifinals will be held on June 25.

The two teams to contest the third-fourth place play-off will have two more days to prepare before their match on June 28 and the final will be held on June 29.

Both the opening game and the final will be held at the 110,000 seat Aztec stadium in Mexico City.

The timetable has been published in "FIFA Magazine" and one of its editors, Guido Togno, said the framework of the group matches should avoid a repeat of the West Germany-Austria match at the last finals in Spain 1982, when both teams knew exactly what they needed to achieve in the game in order to qualify for the next round.

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India limits tea exports

NEW DELHI (R) — India Thursday announced export limits on its top foreign exchange earners, tea, in order to ensure stable domestic prices for the country's most popular beverage and to keep international prices high.

The commerce ministry said only 21 million kilograms of "orthodox" tea, which accounts for 60 per cent of total tea exports, could be shipped abroad in January and February this year, subject to minimum prices which it did not specify.

In November India said it would not lift export restrictions on another major category of tea — CTC (cut, torn and curled), which accounts for about a third of exports for the first three months of this

year. In 1984 India, the world's largest producer and exporter of tea, exported 215 million kilograms earning an estimated seven billion rupees (\$583 million), some 34 per cent more than its 1983 earnings.

Tea brokers here and in Calcutta told Reuters that this rise largely reflected poor tea harvests in Bangladesh and East Africa and export restrictions imposed by India last year.

The commerce ministry said Thursday the aim of its tea policy was to maintain steady domestic prices and optimise foreign exchange earnings.

Domestic demand is rising as

fast as production, because tea is the national drink. It is consumed, invariably mixed with milk and sugar, from the candle-lit slum butts of the urban poor to the candlelit ballrooms of the rich and famous.

To refuse to drink a cup is the same as spurning a Frenchman's offer of wine.

Tea was brought to India in 1833 from China by British merchants who found the climate and geography of northeast India ideally suited to producing a strong, refreshing brew.

Now exports go to U.K., Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and many other countries.

Interest rate hike fails to aid sterling

LONDON (R) — British bank interest rates were lifted sharply higher Friday as the pound sterling suffered further agonies on currency markets.

The move was triggered by pressure from the London money market after sterling fell to new record lows against the dollar and a wide basket of currencies.

The National Westminster Bank took the initiative, saying it would raise its base lending rate by one percentage point to 10½ per cent from Saturday.

The move came as the pound was trading at \$1.1262 on European currency markets.

Earlier sterling had slumped to a record \$1.1230 in the Far East from \$1.1335 at the London close Thursday night.

Dealers said National Westminster's move was preceded by rising interest rates on the commercial money markets due to the speculative run on sterling which gathered pace Thursday.

"Continued competitive pressure on interest rates leaves us with no alternative other than to increase rates although we hope this movement is only temporary," National Westminster's general manager of domestic banking, Mr. Philip Gille, said.

Britain's three other major commercial banks said they were reviewing their rates. They were expected to follow the National Westminster lead.

The rise in British interest rates reduces the differential with U.S. interest rates and thus should help attract more money into sterling, although it pushes up borrowing costs within the economy — something the government had hoped to avoid.

The Bank of England's sterling index, which measures the pound's overall value against a basket of 17 currencies, had opened in London at a record low of 71.3 per cent (1975 equals 100), down from its close Thursday night of 71.6, and then fell even further to 71.1.

The pound has been hit in recent months by a combination of the strong dollar and weak oil prices.

The dollar's strength, backed by attractively high U.S. interest rates, has affected every major currency, but the steady decline in oil prices has also clouded the economic outlook for oil-producing Britain.

The British government's free-market policies have meant there has been no official support forthcoming for sterling in the currency markets, unlike in many other sterling crises.

A treasury spokesman reiterated Thursday night that the government had no exchange-rate policy and said it was up to the market to set the pound's value.

The spokesman told Reuters the government would only force interest rates higher to protect sterling if this was demanded by domestic financial factors, not external ones as at present.

Higher borrowing rates boost industry's costs and decrease the chance of making inroads into Britain's massive unemployment queue, which now stands at 3.1 million or almost 13 per cent of the working population.

But a lower pound brings certain advantages to Britain's economy.

Exports become more competitive and the government's oil income rises because sterling is sinking faster than dollar-denominated oil prices.

National Westminster's announcement of a higher base rate did little to help sterling immediately, with the British currency remaining at about the same low levels.

At midday Friday, sterling stood at \$1.1253 and had fallen to 3,5486 marks from 3,5689 Thursday night, to 2,9776 Swiss francs from 2,9905 and to 10,8884 French francs from 10,9306.

"One per cent is not considered, enough to reverse sterling's decline," said one dealer, who thought the market was looking for a base rate increase of at least 1½ per cent.

Some economic commentators, while admitting the benefits that a cheap pound can bring, have criticised the government for its hands-off attitude.

An editorial in London's Financial Times Friday said financial markets were asking: "When does the government begin to show some concern?"

It added: "...It could be dan-

gerous to be too relaxed about a long bear (downward) trend."

In similar vein, the Times of London's financial editor Mr. Graham Seargent wrote earlier in the week: "To put all the blame on the dollar and not respond at all to sterling's weakness is a luxury we cannot afford."

World stock markets ride high

Meanwhile, stock markets in major countries all over the world are soaring to new heights at the same time as national currencies sink ever lower against the dollar.

Analysts in many centres see no contradiction in this, and believe that the share price boom may still have far to go.

In Frankfurt the Commerzbank index Thursday touched an all-time high for the fourth successive day, reaching 1,146.1 points at mid-session.

The London Financial Times 30-share index rose to 485.6, within sight of the magical 1,000 mark which seemed unattainable only last July when the index stood at 755 points.

Records were also set last week in Zurich, Paris and Tokyo, with gains far outstripping the more modest advance on Wall Street, usually the pacesetter for world markets.

"Growth is satisfactory, profits are good, inflation is low," said Mr. Stephen Lofthouse of London stockbrokers James Capel.

"Those are the simple causes based on economic data."

He and other analysts also pointed to other positive factors which varied with each regional centre.

In London the recent huge British Telecom share sell-off gave the market a boost, in the Far East booming economies continue to attract investment, while on Wall Street a trend towards lower interest rates counterbalances the strength of the dollar.

International trading companies have reported sharply increased profits in their local currencies because of the dollar's rise.

But non-U.S. stock markets stand to gain even more from the belief that the dollar's surge must sooner or later end.

"Investors are wondering whether it is now time to invest in other currencies before the dollar falls," said Mr. Heinz Feldmann, head of the bureau department at Zurich bankers A. Sarasin.

Frankfurt traders also foresaw fresh investment.

"Looked at over the long run... exchange rates are all out of balance," said Mr. Ute Geipel, economist for Citibank, concluding that the undervalued mark should attract a greater number of share investors.

Despite the index records, most analysts still feel German and Swiss shares have room for further gains.

"A major cause of share prices is the one economist at Landesbank (L.B.) confidently."

Dealers in Paris more confident, gains after the Paris bourse.

"I think we will see the market ahead of inflation, voicing French price at a 6.9 per cent."

The general view to the Far East more undervalued, the index close at 11,222, secure record.

Hong Kong push to push the first time ended 48,600, 1,318.55.

Dealers in Tokyo active foreign, rate cuts, already reaching 1,400.

Almost the only was struck by Br in Edinburgh, bert of stockhous kenzie was con along the British.

"We see the saw last May, substantial share prices."

Sinclair launches electric mini-car

LONDON (R) — Sir Clive Sinclair, British pioneer of pocket calculators and home computers, Thursday launched on the market a single-seater electric mini-car priced at \$400 (\$450).

Describing the open-topped three-wheeler as a "revolution in personal transport," he said he planned to produce 100,000 this year at a washing machine factory in Wales.

Made from moulded plastic, the car, called the Sinclair CS, has a maximum speed of 24 kilometres per hour and a range on one battery of 32 kilometres. It is steered by handbars located under the driver's knees.

Tailored to satisfy recent changes in British traffic laws, it can be legally driven without a licence or road tax by virtually anyone over 14.

"It will radically reshape and expand the market for practical personal transport," Mr. Sinclair predicted.

"It should appeal equally to journey commuters, the housewife for local shopping, and the younger generation as the safer alternative to conventional motorised two-wheelers," he added.

Some critics have already warned that the CS, which is less than a metre high and weighs less than 100 kg, will be a hazard in traffic, but Sir Sinclair countered that he had satisfied the demands of the country's main safety bodies.

By encouraging people to ride on three wheels rather than two, "we will actually be contributing to safety on the road," he told reporters at the launch.

The CS is a novel departure for the 44-year-old Sir Sinclair, who is Britain's best-known high-technology entrepreneur.

He made his name launching the world's first mass-produced pocket calculator in 1972 and followed that with the first pocket-sized television.

But commercial success did not come until he developed his ZX micro-computers, described by his company as the world's top-selling home computers.

Poles oppose plans to raise food prices

WARSAW (R) — Leaders of Poland's new trade union movement have objected to proposed food price rises put to them by three government ministers, official newspapers said Friday.

They said the unionists complained at a meeting with the ministers Thursday that the proposed increases, designed to ease the burden of government subsidies on the economy, could seriously affect workers' living standards.

The rises, due in March, will be the first in 13 months and are in line with a government target of an increase in retail prices for 1985 of 12 to 13 per cent.

Newspapers said union leader Mr. Alfred Miodowicz told the ministers that the government's policies on prices were hard to understand and disturbing.

Other unionists said that the introducing parallel rises in rents and public transport charges, the government gave the impression it regarded price increases as the only means of extricating Poland from its economic crisis.

Prices Minister Zdzislaw Kraskinski said the rises would be smaller in real terms than the average 10 per cent by which food costs were raised in January last year.

The government has drafted three plans, proposing different scales of increase, under which sugar could rise by 25 to 45 per cent, flour by 24 to 50 per cent and meat by 9.5 to 15 per cent.

Gulf banks move towards merging

ABU DHABI (R) — The Union Bank of the Middle East (UBME) has bought the entire shares of the Emirates Al Ahli Bank in a move aimed at consolidating banking activity in the United Arab Emirates, a UBME official said Thursday.

UBME Assistant Manager Abdul Aziz Mohammad Said told Reuters his bank's board of directors would decide later whether to merge the two banks.

The accord, the first of its kind in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), follows a recommendation by the UAE central bank calling for the merging of banks to strengthen their liquidity position.

The Dubai-based Emirates Al Ahli bank has an authorised capital of 500 million dirhams (about \$135 million) and a paid up capital of 138 million (\$37.6 million). UBME's authorised capital is one billion dirhams (\$270 million) and a paid up capital of 334 million (\$91 million), Mr. Said said.

UBME was saved from collapse in November 1983 when the Dubai government and the central bank pumped in 1.4 billion dirhams (\$380 million) and subsequently acquired its shares, previously held by entrepreneur Abdul Wahhab Galadari and his company Galadari Holdings Limited.

Mr. Said said that most banks were facing problems and needed strong support to improve their liquidity and asset positions. He added that UBME was now one of the strongest banks in the country following last year's government takeover.

Algeria to buy UAE cement

SHARJAH (OPECNA) — The United Arab Emirates will meet Algeria's cement import requirements under a new agreement between the two countries. Algeria currently imports about a third of its cement needs. Mr. Saif Al Jarwan, UAE minister of economy and trade, said the agreement, concluded during his recent visit to Algeria, also provided for the exchange of locally-manufactured products between the two countries.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities steadied at their lower levels after being marked down sharply following the base rate increase to 10½ per cent.

The increase was triggered by sterling's weakness with its trade weighted index down to an all time low of 71.1 at one point. End of account profit-taking contributed to the decline in shares, dealers said, and the FTSE 100 index at 1530 Friday was down 14.2 to 1,246.8 having dipped to 1,240.9 around midday.

Government bonds eased by up to ½ point while gold shares were mixed and North Americans firm.

Glaxo dropped 1½ to 1,125 having touched 1,142 at the outset and Beecham eased 7p to 376. Thorn EM1 fell 18p to 449 in continued response to their lower than expected results Thursday while ICI moved against the trend adding 4p to 756.

Banks showed declines ranging to 5p as Barclays at 579 while insurance were mixed with Commercial Union up 6p at 200 and Sun Life 10p easier at 774.

Oils were mostly lower with B.P. down 5p at 483 and Brioil 6p easier at 195.

Stores, a weak sector at one stage, met some buying demand at the lower levels and closed with Dixons down 10p at 549 having fallen to 534 and Gus "A" 13p lower at 699 after 689.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.1248/58	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3207/10	Canadian dollars
	3.1535/45	West German marks
	3.5615/30	Dutch guilders
	2.6470/85	Swiss francs
	63.15/17	Belgian francs
	9.6525/75	French francs
	1943.04/0	Italian lire
	253.70/80	Japanese yen
	9.0550/650	Swedish crowns
	9.1375/1525	Norwegian crowns
	11.2750/2900	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	304.00/304.50	U.S. dollars

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JAN. 20

GENERAL TENDENCIES: There can be a considerable amount of confusion in your relations with other persons today and tonight unless you make a study just what they desire.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) If you want to have a relationship with those you want as partners, best not to be so self-opinionated.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Put more of your work and get rid of some flow in it and you get better benefits.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Any small take today could turn out successfully and press yourself well.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get your home in fine shape, your marketing family feeling happy.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Check and statements or reports and make sure they are correct. Make certain to telephone before dropping.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Go over your and get them in order so that you can collect as the case may be, very soon.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study what desire in the days ahead and how best to gain it. Get out later and visit with friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) If you can really nice for the one you love you can response. Apply yourself seriously.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Closest friends and discussing your ambitions can bring fine results today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Good much to you now so expand your efforts in it and have fine credit.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Miss can be a little confusing to you but can advance if you study them well.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Your intuition sound but couple it with good judgement. Strange behavior becomes clarified tonight.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... a born peacemaker and can bring happy warring factions, so be sure to give a fine who will be most popular for the reason that or daughter will love people. However, family will come first.

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- Expression of surprise
- Desert plants
- Ancient Britons
- Title of respect
- Sub sandwiches
- Valleys
- Rainbow
- Poetry muse
- Young seal
- Comic strip
- Adversary
- Pelvic prefix
- Draft letters
- Chest
- Eng. channel
- Island
- Exist
- Curved letter
- Connection
- Comic strip
- Whirl of
- mode
- Speed up a motor
- Ogden the poet
- Pattern
- South Fl.
- "The A..."
- grail
- Comic strip
- Comic strip character
- Wash cycle
- Mountain pass
- Choose
- Up and about
- Before
- Physicist Hans
- Assays
- Put into type

DOWN

- "Free — bird"
- Trumpeter Al
- Batman's Joker, for one
- Masticated
- Atmosphere
- Most likely
- Suez
- "Is you — you ain't my baby"
- Conception
- Glove leather
- Presley
- Wants
- Neighbor
- Long time
- Hospital
- term: abbr.
- Marquise de
- Songbird
- Bandleader
- Brown
- Map abbr.
- No Na
- Stethoscope
- acids
- Of Baylark
- Granular
- Thing without an equal
- A Gershwin
- Basic parts
- Base or
- Beerhorn
- Minister's degree: abbr.
- low (one)
- Alfred and
- 50 Fals
- 1188 or Torme
- Spy
- Artist Edouard

Yesterday's Puzzles

WENNA JIVANE
ACRIE REINER
TRIENORST
HOICIE VITAE
TRIENORST
RAID NINON
ALBIS ST
PRITY
TRIENORST
SANDOR
TRIENORST
ASTRO VITAE
GOTUP ENIGMA

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

"I'm worried about losing my job! My boss found a computer that laughs at his jokes!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ORMUF

ZUGEA

TENTAX

CUTLED

And I thought I was doing great!

IRS

THE REASON SO MANY OF US ARE DISCONTENTED WITH OUR LOT THESE DAYS IS THAT IT'S NO LONGER THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Jumbles: DELVE EVENT SNAPPY OSSIFY

Yesterday's Answer: What the nervous desk jockey lives on — SPINS & NEEDLES

Peanuts

Mutt 'n' Jeff

Andy Capp

Rebels abandon attempts to recapture Ampil base

NONG CHAN, Thailand (R) — A top Kampuchean guerrilla leader said Friday attempts to recapture their Vietnamese-held Ampil base in a major counter-attack had been abandoned in favour of hit-and-run raids to inflict maximum losses.

Son Sann, head of the Khmer Peoples National Liberation Front (KPNLF), told a press conference in the Thai village of Rong Chan six kilometres from the Kampuchean border that his guerrillas would operate deeper in the interior rather than from fixed bases near the border.

"Our intention is not to recapture Ampil. If we can will. Our aim is to inflict maximum casualties on the Vietnamese without loss to ourselves," he said.

He said the change in strategy was necessary because the KPNLF did not have the means to fight a conventional war against the Vietnamese Army, the third largest in the world.

"Now we change everything — tactics, headquarters. If there is one place we must occupy it is (the Kampuchean capital) Phnom Penh," he said.

In his first meeting with the press since the fall of his headquarters to Vietnamese troops last Tuesday, Son Sann said he was very sorry to lose Ampil.

He said he personally gave the order for Ampil's defenders to abandon the base because he did not want them killed by Vietnam's superior firepower.

Son Sann said 3,000 Vietnamese troops went into the attack, backed by heavy mortar and artillery fire and T-54 tanks.

He said that despite overwhelming odds, the guerrillas destroyed eight tanks and disabled six others. He estimated the cost of the shells fired at Ampil at

about \$10 million.

Son Sann said Ampil was established as a model city to show foreign backers the KPNLF had the organisational and administrative ability to run Kampuchea effectively when the Vietnamese left.

Now that this had been done, he said, his fighters had to give up fixed bases for more mobile ones and fight more like guerrillas than conventional troops.

He said KPNLF casualties at Ampil were light and its main force was still intact.

Asked if he expected more arms shipments from China, he said: "I know China will help us."

He also said Thailand helped the KPNLF. "When we need something they help us," he added.

Flags and markers were planted along an anti-tank ditch adjacent to Ampil Thursday to mark the boundary between Thailand and Kampuchea and avert possible clashes between Thai and Vietnamese troops.

Thai military officers at Aranyaprathet about 60 kilometres south west of Ampil reported a clash between Khmer Rouge guerrillas and Vietnamese troops Thursday in the vicinity of Nimit in western Kampuchea.

But the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge did not mention the reported clash in its radio broadcast monitored in Bangkok Friday.

In its monthly report on casualties suffered by Vietnamese troops throughout Kampuchea

the Khmer Rouge said 2,510 Vietnamese were killed and 2,815 wounded in December.

There was no independent confirmation of the latest figures. Last November the Khmer Rouge reported killing 1,913 Vietnamese soldiers and wounding 2,082.

Some Thai military officers and Western diplomats speculate that after having overrun or attacked every major non-Communist guerrilla base along the western Kampuchean border, the Vietnamese may be turning their guns on the Khmer Rouge, who operate deeper in the interior.

The KPNLF is part of a coalition with the Khmer Rouge and supporters of Prince Norodom Sihanouk which is recognised by the United Nations as the legitimate government of Kampuchea.

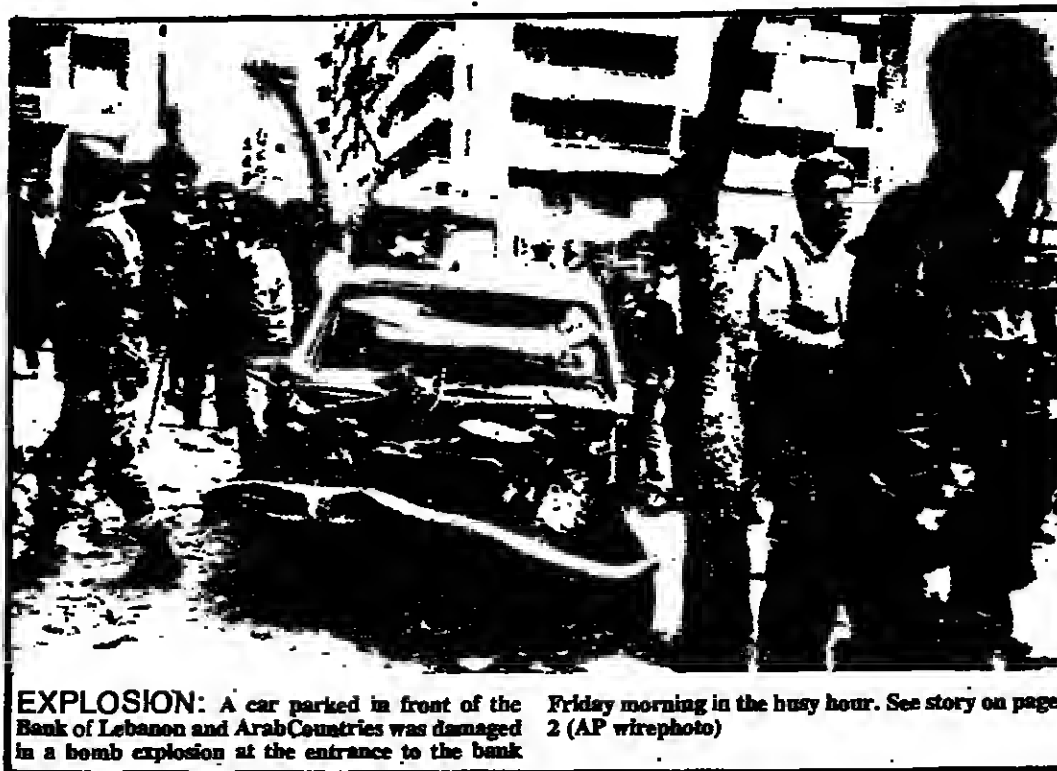
Thailand Friday accused a "superpower" of supporting Vietnam in its attack this week against Ampil base.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sawanit Kongsiri told a press conference thousands of artillery shells were fired into the KPNLF headquarters at Ampil before it was captured by Vietnamese troops on Tuesday.

The spokesman, who did not mention the Soviet Union by name, said Hanoi would not have been able to launch the major operation without the support of a superpower because of the big cost of arms and ammunition.

He said three foreign ships carrying weapons arrived at the port of Kampong Som in Kampuchea just one week before the attack.

Mr. Sawanit said he did not believe the Vietnamese could hold on to the KPNLF base for long because of supply problems.



EXPLOSION: A car parked in front of the Bank of Lebanon and Arab Countries was damaged in a bomb explosion at the entrance to the bank Friday morning in the busy hour. See story on page 2 (AP wirephoto)

Carter blasts Reagan on human rights

NEW YORK (R) — Former President Jimmy Carter has harshly attacked President Reagan, accusing him of abandoning human rights, being an obstacle to peace and shirking responsibility for mistakes as president.

In one of his strongest attacks ever on the man who defeated him in the 1980 election, Mr. Carter said Thursday night the United States, by its silence, had become an accomplice to international human rights abuses.

Mr. Carter said he did not speak out during the recent presidential election campaign because he did not want to detract from the candidacy of Walter

Mondale, who served as Mr. Carter's vice president.

He lashed out at what he called Mr. Reagan's failure to make progress on the Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt and condemned "the almost total absence" of Reagan's personal involvement in Middle East peace efforts.

He told an audience of close to 1,000 people at the Young Men's Hebrew Association that Mr. Reagan's foreign policy was marked by belligerence rather than diplomacy and said he was surprised the American public had accepted Mr. Reagan's avoidance

of blame when things went wrong.

He said the news media treated Mr. Reagan with kid gloves, pointing to publicity surrounding last week's Geneva talks between Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

"This went on routinely when I was president ... and it was not a matter of great news," Mr. Carter said.

"But this administration has so completely fouled up ... that just the fact the secretaries of state met with each other was a matter of profound moral importance," he said.

8 die in London gas blast

LONDON (Agencies) — At least eight people were killed in a big gas explosion which ripped through a luxury apartment block in a London suburb, rescue officials said Friday.

Rescuers said eight bodies had been taken from the debris but could not say if all residents had been accounted for.

The explosion Thursday demolished most of a three-storey building on the exclusive Manor Hill estate in Putney, South west London.

Minutes earlier a resident in the block had reported a gas leak and an engineer was on his way to investigate when the blast tore the middle out of the building.

Six hours later, firemen digging with their hands through tons of rubble pulled out a survivor, a badly-injured woman aged 35. Her younger sister was among those feared dead.

As darkness fell and temperatures plummeted, rescue workers grew less hopeful of more survivors being found but continued their search.

The government has ordered an inquiry into the blast which has heard five kilometres away. Residents said there had been several complaints about the gas supply.

In a separate incident, 300 people were evacuated from homes in the northern city of Leeds after a gas leak was reported there Thursday night.

The British Gas Corp. said it was the worst gas blast since October 1983, when six people died and 13 were injured in an explosion that demolished part of an hotel in Aberdeen, Scotland.

The current cold snap started last Sunday, with snow, frost and freezing daytime temperatures affecting London and the south east.

Reagan announces three more cabinet nominations

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has made three more cabinet changes, naming Donald Hodel as interior secretary and filling the top posts for energy and education — two departments he pledged to abolish four years ago.

Announcing the second cabinet changes this week, White House Spokesman Larry Speakes said Thursday that White House Personnel Director John Herrington would become energy secretary — filling Mr. Hodel's old job — and William Bennett would replace Terrell Bell, who resigned as education secretary.

The nominations of Mr. Hodel, Mr. Herrington and Mr. Bennett, who was chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, must be confirmed by the Senate.

Mr. Speakes also announced a sub-cabinet switch which moves Richard Darman from his post as presidential assistant to be deputy secretary of the treasury.

Thursday's changes came two days after the surprise job exchange between Treasury Secretary Donald Regan and White House Chief of Staff James Baker.

This week's moves also followed the resignation last week of Michael Deaver, deputy White House chief of staff and interior Secretary William Clark.

The changes and resignations, together with the planned departure of presidential Counsellor Edwin Meese to become attorney general, will leave the president without his trusted cadre of California advisers in his second term.

Announcing Thursday's job moves, Mr. Speakes described the four as "men of proven ability who will make a strong team even stronger" during Mr. Reagan's second administration.

Two of those nominees — Mr. Herrington and Mr. Bennett — were immediately ordered to look into ways of phasing out their respective departments of Energy and Education.

Mr. Speakes said Mr. Reagan had instructed Mr. Herrington, once confirmed, to begin a study on incorporating his agency into the Interior Department. Mr. Bennett was instructed to study the possibility of abolishing the Education Department.

Anti-independence riots erupt in New Caledonia

NOUMEA (R) — French white settlers set fire to buildings in Noumea Friday in a backlash against the killing of a youth in the troubled French Pacific territory of New Caledonia.

Police fired tear gas and stun grenades in an attempt to disperse about 1,000 demonstrators who took to the streets of the capital.

The 17-year-old youth, Yves Tual, was shot dead near his father's home at mid-day Friday in an area of recent unrest among Melanesian Kanaks seeking the territory's independence.

Police said there was no immediate evidence linking Kanak militants to the killing near the village of Bouloup, 80 kilometres west of Noumea.

But 16 people have died in the past two months in violence between Kanaks and settlers.

French special envoy Edgard Pisani announced on Monday a formula which could give the territory independence next year, a move strongly opposed by most settlers.

The demonstrators surging through Noumea Friday repeatedly chanted "Pisani assassin."

U.S. must go ahead with MX, Shultz says

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State George Shultz has said that the United States should go ahead with its new MX nuclear missile programme in spite of its agreement to begin new arms reduction talks with the Soviet Union.

Mr. Shultz was in Capitol Hill Thursday to brief congressmen on talks in Geneva with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

He told reporters the U.S. should proceed with the MX nuclear missile because "if any of our programmes are going to be shifted, that should be done as a result of negotiations."

Congress is scheduled to vote on the controversial, 10-warhead missile in March and representative Dan Rostenkowski, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, suggested the resumed arms negotiations may persuade some congressmen to back the MX as a bargaining chip.

The Defence Department meanwhile signalled its commitment to the terms of the unratified Salt II agreement with Moscow by indicating it will consider scrapping some nuclear missiles when a new submarine, the Alaska, begins sea trials next autumn.

Meanwhile President Reagan has called for improved U.S.-Soviet relations but pledged to press ahead with research on a "Star Wars" missile defence system that Moscow fears could lead to war in space.

He told a news conference that his plan could lead ultimately to the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Reagan hailed the agreement negotiated in Geneva on Tuesday by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko to begin new arms control negotiations.

He urged Moscow to help make 1985 "a year that leads to better relations between the United States and the Soviet Union."

The U.S. would be flexible, patient and determined in the negotiations that will deal with space weapons, medium-range missiles and strategic, or long-range, nuclear arms, he said.

Mr. Reagan said his Star Wars programme was not designed to extend the arms race to space but to search for a "weapon that might destroy nuclear weapons ... not nuclear itself ... to destroy weapons, not people."

Mr. Reagan's first full-scale news conference in six months was dominated by the issue of arms control and by his Star Wars programme which seeks to develop ways to destroy incoming Soviet missiles before they hit their targets in the United States.

The Soviet Union, which already has an operational anti-satellite system, has charged that Star Wars will lead to the militarisation of space.

Defending the \$26 billion programme called the strategic defence initiative, Mr. Reagan said: "Through history, we've always been able to come up with a defensive weapon."

He added, "Isn't it worth researching to see if there isn't some weapon that is more humane and moral than just saying that if they kill tens of millions of our people, then we'll kill tens of millions of theirs?"

The shorter-term goal of the new arms control negotiations, for which a time and place have yet to be set, would be the "reduction of nuclear arms and the strengthening of strategic stability."

COLUMN

Kuwaiti minister honoured by Japan

TOKYO (R) — Kuwaiti Oil and Finance Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah was awarded the Japanese first class Order of the Sacred Treasure, the Foreign Ministry said. A ministry official said Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe conferred the award on Sheikh Ali for his contribution to closer relations between the two countries and a stable supply of Kuwaiti crude oil to Japan. Sheikh Ali arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday for a five-day official visit.

U.S. police predict gang war

LOS ANGELES (R) — Police who fear two rival drug gangs are preparing for open war in Los Angeles have seized 19 rifles and revolvers and 3,000 rounds of ammunition in a two-day operation. Police chief Daryl Gates told a press conference Thursday: "Police believe as many as 60 weapons are still in the hands of these home-grown terrorists. You should realise these people appear to be planning open warfare."

The aim of the gangs, he said, was to take control of the so-called rock houses, heavily-fortified homes which sell pulverised blocks of cocaine. City officials estimate there are several hundred of them in Los Angeles, each taking about \$5,000 a day.

Ad sets off stampede of would-be brides

PLAN, Spain (R) — The unmarried men of the tiny Spanish Pyrenean village of Plan say they can no longer cope with telephone calls after their advertisement for wives in a local newspaper set off a stampede of would-be brides.

"It's getting out of hand. At first we took down the names and addresses of callers. Now we are just having to tell them to write," one of the organisers told Reuters. "If it goes on like this we'll end up with more than 3,000 candidates for just 140 bachelors," Jose Antonio Lopez said. Lopez said the lonely men of Plan and a few neighbouring hamlets decided to advertise for wives after seeing American Director William Wellman's 1951 film "Westward the Women" on television on New Year's Day. "We were reaching the point here that without women the village was dying, but now we don't know what to do. It shows how many lonely people there are out there," Lopez said.

9 out of 10 say British are racists

LONDON (R) — Nine out of 10 Britons believe their country is racially-prejudiced, according to a government survey of social trends. But only a third of those polled admitted to racial prejudice themselves. Almost half the people surveyed believed prejudice against blacks and Asians had increased in recent years and would worsen. The survey also showed opposition to ethnic immigration running high, with more than 60 per cent against more West Indians and Asians being allowed into Britain.

Princess Margaret receives visitors

LONDON (R) — Britain's Princess Margaret Thursday night received her first visitors since undergoing a lung operation on Sunday. The Princess's children, Viscount Linley, 23, and 20-year-old Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones visited their mother for 50 minutes at London's Brompton Hospital. Princess Margaret, only sister of Queen Elizabeth, is recovering after an operation in which part of her lung was removed. The 54-year-old Princess was given a clean bill of health after surgeons determined that the tissue removed was "innocent."

Sextuplets born in Italy

ROME (R) — A 30-year-old woman gave birth to six baby boys here after taking a fertility drug, doctors said. They said the babies, the biggest of which weighed only 1.3 kilos, would not be out of danger for two days as none could breathe by itself. The sextuplets arrived two-and-a-half months prematurely and were born by Caesarian operation to Maria Castellani, who works for the Defence Ministry. It was the fourth case of sextuplets in Italy in the past 10 years. Only in one previous case, in 1980, have all six babies survived.

India seizes Sri Lankan patrol boat

NEW DELHI (R) — The Indian coastguard seized a Sri Lankan patrol boat when it intruded into Indian waters Friday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

The news agency said the patrol boat and its seven-man crew were in custody at the southern Indian town of Mandapam.

The seizure marked a sharp escalation in a row between the two countries over the activities of Tamil guerrillas in Sri Lanka.

In Colombo, Defence Ministry sources confirmed that a Sri Lankan patrol boat had been seized by an Indian coastguard vessel. The sources could give no further details.

PTI said Indian fishermen helped escort the patrol boat to port. The Indian External Affairs Ministry said earlier this week a Sri Lankan patrol boat opened fire on Indian fishermen in the area on Monday killing two people. Sri Lanka denied the charge.

Both India and Sri Lanka have stepped up patrols of the Palk Strait separating the two countries.

Sri Lanka said guerrillas infiltrate to the island from the Indian state of Tamil Nadu while India said the Sri Lankan Security

Forces were harassing Indian fishermen.

PTI said the incident happened when the patrol boat chased about 50 Indian fishermen on 12 boats as they were returning to harbour.

The first boats into harbour reported the action to the coastguard which sent one of its ships to intervene.

Rebel leader killed

On Thursday a top Tamil guerrilla leader and 13 comrades were killed in an attack by security forces on Sri Lanka's strongest rebel group, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathududi said.

He said 44 guerrillas were captured when the security forces launched their biggest single successful attack on an arsenal of a guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Mr. Athulathududi told a press conference: "The highest ranking LTTE member and leader of the group presently on Sri Lankan soil has been killed."

He identified him as a man named Pandithan, adding that the LTTE's top leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, was in south India.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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THE BIDDING TELLS IT ALL

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 1085
♥ AKJ4
♦ 7654
♣ A4

WEST ♠ J972 ♣ 643
♥ 8 ♠ 2
♦ K92 ♠ J108
♥ KQ17 ♠ 1098653

SOUTH ♠ AK
♥ Q1097653
♦ AQ3
♣ 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 3 ♣ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♣ Pass
5 NT Pass 6 ♣ Pass
6 ♣ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠.

Our computer program "Charles Goren: Learning Bridge Made Easy," distributed by CBS Software, has become the first bridge program to make it into the top 10 on Softsell's list of best-selling educational computer software. It is now available for Apple II, IBM PC and Commodore.

Here's a hand from the play section for you to try.

Point count doesn't come close to reflecting the playing strength of South's hand. As long as his side isn't off two aces, slam shouldn't depend on more than a finesse.

After finding out that his side had all the aces, South checked on kings and then settled in a small slam when he found out that two were missing.

West led the king of clubs, and when dummy came down it seemed that declarer would need the diamond finesse to succeed. But why rely on a 50 percent chance when you might have a sure thing available?

For his overall, West surely has at least one of the two missing spade honors. If he has both, or if he has overcalled on a six-card suit, the slam can be guaranteed.

Declarer won the ace of clubs, cashed a high trump and then ruffed a club. He took his ace-king of spades, crossed back to the table with a trump and led the 10 of spades. When East could not cover, the slam became a laydown. Instead of ruffing, declarer made a loser-on-loser play — he discarded his low diamond.

West was on lead with a choice of losing options. A diamond would be into declarer's major tenace; a black suit would afford declarer the opportunity of ruffing in dummy while discarding his diamond loser from hand. No matter what, the slam was in the bag.

Japanese police release sketch of candy crook

OSAKA, Japan (R) — Japan's poison candy gang has vowed to end a self-imposed New Year's truce next week. And Japanese police are taking new steps to catch the crooks who have eluded their grasp for the past 10 months.

Newspapers Friday carried a police sketch of a bespectacled man believed to be a leader of the gang which kidnapped the president of one confectionary firm last March.

The gang later put packets of poisoned candy on store shelves in an effort to extract ransom from the makers.

National Police Agency head Sadatoshi Suzuki set off Friday for western Japan to urge police there to intensify the hunt for the gang.

Repeated police bungling of attempts to nab the crooks, who call themselves "the man with 21 faces," after a 1930s mystery novel, has drawn strong public criticism.

"The criminals are watching the police and not showing themselves much," Mr. Suzuki said.

Mr. Suzuki said police bunting the gang in the four western prefectures of Hyogo, Osaka, Kyoto and Shiga were gearing up in case the crooks made new moves when their truce, announced in late December, ended on Jan. 15.

Ortega charges Washington with 'orgy of blood'

MANAGUA (R) — With Cuban leader Fidel Castro looking on, Daniel Ortega took over as president of Nicaragua and promptly accused the United States of responsibility for an "orgy of blood" here.

But in his inaugural speech Thursday as Latin America's youngest president, the 39-year-old former guerrilla fighter also held out an olive branch to the U.S.-backed insurgents who have been fighting the leftist leadership here for more than three years.

Mr. Ortega's inauguration came two months after the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) won the first general election since the Sandinists overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza in July, 1979.

Mr. Ortega once more harshly criticised the Reagan administration, which has provided arms, training and finance for anti-Sandinista guerrillas and hopes to provide \$20 million in additional funds for the rebels this year.

"The North American rulers are demanding more budget (means)... to continue the orgy of

blood in Nicaragua," he told delegates from more than 60 countries assembled in Managua's Revolution Square.

Mr. Castro was the most senior foreign leader attending the ceremony. He flew into Managua in a gesture of support for the left-wing Nicaraguan leadership.

Mr. Ortega, draped in the blue-and-white sash of the presidency, said the U.S. government had so far spent more than \$100 million on an insurgency war which had claimed 4,698 casualties on the government side including what he termed 2,767 "killed by assassination."

In what diplomats described as the most wide-ranging conciliation offer to the insurgents, Mr. Ortega said his government was prepared to facilitate their "immediate reintegration" into Nicaraguan society.

A 1983 amnesty offer excluded insurgent leaders who had called for outside intervention or foreign funds to finance the war. Mr. Ortega Friday called on the International Red Cross to help arrange the return of insurgents who lay down their arms.

Western diplomats here said the Nicaraguan Democratic force (FDN), the biggest of the rebel groups, was likely to rebuff the offer. But they felt it might help peace talks the Sandinists have been holding with a smaller organisation, the Misurata group of Nicaraguan Indians.

U.S. planning exercises

Meanwhile Defence Department sources said Thursday the United States is planning new naval and ground exercises in the Caribbean and Central America in the coming months.

They said the giant aircraft carrier Nimitz would stage "Show-the-Flag" missions off the coast of Central America, including Nicaragua, whose government the U.S. accuses of trying to spread leftist revolution.

Some 5,000 ground troops would later take part in a ground exercise named "Big Pine" in Honduras, they said.

Pentagon Spokesman Michael Burch confirmed that the Nimitz had left for training in the Caribbean but would not give any

details. He acknowledged that ground exercises were planned in Honduras but said they would last only a "couple of days."

The sources said that although the war games would be brief, the deployment of forces from the United States and their return would continue over several months.

They also said the Nimitz and its support vessels would be in the region only a few days, but that the battleship Iowa and its task force were likely to follow the aircraft carrier to the Caribbean.

Mr. Burch announced Thursday that Gen. Paul Gorman, influential commander of the U.S. Southern Command based in Panama, would retire from the army soon.

Gen. Gorman has often been referred to as U.S. "proconsul" because of the wide influence he wields throughout the region in diplomatic as well as military matters.

But he has been frequently criticised for his outspoken comments and his emphasis on a military solution to Central America's problems.